Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. December 1880.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4367.)

F.O.

424

PART LV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

104

November 1880.

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *December* 1880.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4367.)

PART LV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

November 1880.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Lascelles ..	156	Oct. 13, 1880	Enrolment of Mussulmans in the Bulgarian army. M. Zancoff will endeavour to obtain a modification	1
2	„ „ ..	161	19,	Reinstatement of Mussulmans on their properties. Incloses despatch containing objections of Bulgarians	1
3	Sir H. Elliot ..	684	24,	Dulcigno. Draft Convention. Extends telegram	3
4	„ „ ..	686	24,	Dulcigno. Respecting steps to be taken in case promises are not fulfilled. Extends telegram	3
5	„ „ ..	687 Confidential	25,	Montenegro. Views of Austrian Government on matters relating to	3
6	„ „ ..	689 Very Conf.	27,	Smyrna demonstration. Emperor's decided tone	4
7	„ „ ..	691 Confidential	27,	Arrival of Russian officers and arms in Bulgaria. Incloses confidential statement relating to	4
8	„ „ ..	693 Confidential	27,	Naval demonstration. Satisfaction of Emperor at harmony among officers of allied fleets. Has repeated to Emperor recognition of courtesy to Admiral on part of Austria ..	8
9	Mr. Kirby Green ..	336	25,	Dulcigno. Incloses documents from Montenegrin Government relating to progress of negotiation respecting Convention ..	8
10	Sir H. Elliot ..	191 Telegraphic	Nov. 1,	Finance question. Baron Haymerle will consult Baron Calice. He does not consider that Turks are bound to consent to Commission	9
11	Mr. Plunkett ..	215 Telegraphic	1,	Finance question. Will telegraph to Livadia respecting wishes of Her Majesty's Government	9
12	„ „ ..	216 Very Conf. Telegraphic	1,	Turkey and Greece. Baron Jomini's views as to probability of attack on Turkey by Montenegro and Bulgaria	10
13	Mr. Stephens ..	355 Confidential	Oct. 22,	Impressions produced by his visit to Slivno ..	10
14	Mr. Gould	96 Confidential	23,	State of affairs in Servia. Reports . ..	11
15	Mr. Goschen ..	509	26,	Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. Incloses Mr. Vincent's Report on political questions in reference to	12
16	„ „ ..	512	26,	Dulcigno. Incloses memoranda in reference to negotiations for cession and gives a summary of course of events	17
17	Mr. White	146	26,	Interview between Prince of Bulgaria and Prince Charles, and assurances of the former of his desire to carry out Berlin Congress ..	20
18	Sir H. Elliot ..	697	28,	Montenegrin question. Baron Haymerle's answer to delagations respecting proceedings	20
19	„ „ ..	701	29,	Comments on No. 14	21
20	Lord Lyons ..	1018	Nov. 1,	Removal of M. de Radowitz to Athens ..	22
21	„ „ ..	1019 Confidential	1,	Friendly sentiments of M. Gambetta to M. de Radowitz and German Government. Reference to No. 20	22
22	Captain Sale ..	39 Telegraphic	2,	Report of Albanian attack on Montenegrin outpost requires confirmation	22
23	„ „ ..	40 Telegraphic	2,	Arrival of Dervish Pasha at Medua.. ..	22
24	To Mr. Goschen ..	649	2,	Discrepancy in reports of Prince of Bulgaria's speech of the 18th August. Draws attention to	23
25	Mr. Kirby Green ..	337	Oct. 28,	North Albania. Incloses extracts of Report by Mr. Summa	23

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
26	Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey	..	Oct. 21, 1880	Condition of Mussulmans in Bulgaria. Transmits Reports from Commercial Agent at Varna	24
27	„ „ ..	..	21,	Expulsion of Ottoman subjects from Montenegro and their ill-treatment. Calls attention of Her Majesty's Government	26
28	Mr. Corbett ..	53 Telegraphic	Nov. 2,	Greek frontier. Statement of M. Coumoundouros to Chamber has not yet been explained..	26
29	Mr. Kirby Green ..	147 Telegraphic	2,	Montenegro. Movements of Turks and Albanians on frontier. Has urged moderation on the Montenegrin Government and reticence on the Turkish Minister. Reference to No. 22	27
30	„ „ ..	148 Telegraphic	3,	Montenegro. Prince accepts above views but distrusts Dervish Pasha	27
31	Sir J. Walsham ..	114 Confidential	3,	M. Radowitch's movements. Comments on ..	27
32	To Mr. Stephen ..	Telegraphic 54	3,	Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia. Approves steps taken	28
33	„ „ ..	55	3,	Colonel Wilson's Report on Eastern Roumelia. Approves language to Aleko Pasha in reply to his observations	28
34	To Mr. Kirby Green..	134	3,	Mussulmans in Montenegro. Approves assurances given to Ottoman Envoy respecting..	28
35	„ „ ..	135	3,	Prince Danilo's visit to the fleet. Approves steps taken to make arrangements for ..	28
36	„ „ ..	136	3,	Withdrawal of troops from Montenegrin frontier. Approves advice to Prince on the subject	28
37	Sir A. Paget ..	486	Oct. 27,	Montenegro. Extends telegram ..	29
38	„ „ ..	489	30,	Montenegro. Interview with M. Carioli. Extends telegram	29
39	„ „ ..	491	30,	Colonel Ottolenghi's mission to Montenegro	30
40	Mr. Corbett ..	328	28,	Greek frontier. Incloses speech of M. Coumoundouros. Extends telegram	30
41	„ „ ..	329	28,	Statistics of Greek army as communicated by M. Coumoundouros	31
42	Captain Sale ..	41 Telegraphic	Nov. 4,	Arrival of soldiers at Medua. Departure of Dervish Pasha for Dulcigno	32
43	Mr. Kirby Green ..	149	4,	Failure of Dervish Pasha's mission to Dulcigno. Recall of Riza Pasha.	32
44	To Mr. Kirby Green .	129 Telegraphic	4,	Approves advice to Prince Nicholas ..	32
45	„ „ ..	137	4,	Extends above	32
46	Consul-General Blunt.	115	Oct. 22,	Attack on Jewess at Drama. Forwards despatch from M. Pecchioli respecting ..	33
47	„ „ ..	117	24,	Brigandage in Cassandra and Karaferia. Forwards two letters reporting	33
48	„ „ ..	118	25,	Preparations for rising in Macedonia and formation of Secret Committees. Reports ..	35
49	„ „ ..	119 Confidential	26,	Dervish Pasha's mission to Albania. Incloses telegram reporting arrival of Aide-de-camp with Sultan's commands	36
50	„ „ ..	120 Confidential	26,	Reported communications between Italian emissary and Albanian League	36
51	„ „ ..	121	26,	State of affairs in Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus. Forwards report	36
52	Admiralty	Confidential	Nov. 4,	Montenegro. Forwards letters from Sir Beauchamp Seymour relating to progress of negotiations	37
53	Consul Dennis ..	Telegraphic	4,	Calling out of reserves at Pergamos . ..	38
54	Vice-Consul Maling ..	Telegraphic	4,	Loading of torpedoes and military stores on Turkish transport in Dardanelles. Commencement of three redoubts	38
55	Mr. Goschen ..	343 Telegraphic	5,	Recapitulates No. 53. Dispatch of conscripts from Kara-Hissar to Constantinople	38
56	„ „ ..	513	Oct. 29,	Turkhan Bey's arrival. Gives particulars of his reception at the Palace	38
57	„ „ ..	514	29,	Montenegro. Interview with Assim Pasha and Under-Secretary of State. Has inquired from them particulars as to progress of negotiations and Dervish Pasha's mission ..	39
58	Sir J. Walsham ..	504	Nov. 3,	Reported resignation of Prince Bismarck. Extends telegram	39
59	„ „ ..	506 Confidential	3,	Extends No. 31	40

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
60	Consul-General Blunt.	Telegraphic	Nov. 6, 1880	Rumoured arrival of Turkish frigate with torpedoes	40
61	To Mr. Goschen ..	670	6,	Imprisonment of certain persons at Samakow. Incloses telegram from Turkish Government respecting reported petition made by above to Russian Government	40
62	Admiralty	Confidential	6,	Dulcigno cession. Approve Admiral's intention of not sending naval officer to attend on occasion of	40
63	Mr. Kirby Green ..	150 Telegraphic	7,	Dulcigno. No satisfactory result to be expected from Dervish Pasha's mission. Mr. Summa reports	41
64	Mr. Goschen ..	348 Telegraphic	7,	Invasion of Kurds. Measures taken by Turks to repel. Peremptory orders sent to Dervish Pasha	41
65	Captain Sale ..	Telegraphic	7,	Dulcigno. Information recived confirms No. 63	41
66	Mr. Plunkett ..	501	Oct. 22,	Extends telegram	41
67	„ „ ..	502 Confidential	23,	Extends telegram	42
68	„ „ ..	503	23,	Inexpediency of threatening Porte with ulterior measures. Baron Jomini has received telegram from Prince Lobanow reporting substance of views of Her Majesty's Government	42
69	„ „ ..	507 Very Conf.	Nov. 1,	Extends No. 12..	43
70	„ „ ..	513 Very Conf.	3,	Baron Haymerle's declaration at Buda-Pesth. Views of Baron Jomini, and his suspicion of Austria	43
71	„ „ ..	517	3,	England and Russia. Language held to German and Austrian colleagues respecting policy of Her Majesty's Government in connection with Russia	44
72	Mr. Kirby Green ..	338	Oct. 28,	Proposed meeting at Konia. Incloses copy of Riza Pasha's letter to Bozo Petrovitch respecting	44
73	Mr. Corbett ..	335	30,	Sitting of Chamber of the 26th October. Incloses report taken from the "Messager d'Athènes" respecting. Reference to No. 40	44
74	„ „ ..	336	30,	Arrival of volunteers at Athens. Expectations as to statement of Prime Minister on the 1st November	45
75	Sir J. Walsham ..	513 Very Conf.	Nov. 6,	Reported advice of Emperor of Germany to Sultan improbable	45
76	„ „ ..	514 Very Conf.	6,	Conversation with French Ambassador on Porte's relations with Powers, and identic policy of Germany, Austria, and France ..	46
77	„ „ ..	515 Confidential	6,	Tendency of Austria to pursue a Russian rather than a German policy. Comments on ..	47
78	Mr. Kirby Green ..	151 Telegraphic	8,	Dulcigno question. Puts forward certain points to be borne in mind in connection with	47
79	Lord Lyons ..	119 Telegraphic	8,	Views of French Government on best method for dispersion of fleet. Greeks have been urged by French Government to keep quiet .	48
80	Mr. Plunkett ..	223 Telegraphic Secret	8,	Bad effect produced by Baron Haymerle's speeches	48
81	Mr. Goschen ..	517 Confidential	Oct. 27,	Pressure on Porte. Gives correct version of instructions to French and German Ambassadors referred to in Foreign Office telegram No. 607	48
82	„ „ ..	522	31,	General views of the Palace and the Governing Pashas. Incloses two articles from Turkish press respecting	49
83	„ „ ..	527	Nov. 1,	Sale of Government lands in Thessaly and Epirus. Gives particulars respecting ..	50
84	„ „ ..	534	2,	Dulcigno. Further pressure useless. Result of Dervish Pasha's mission must be awaited. Incloses copy of news given by Count Corti	51
85	„ „ ..	535	2,	Boundary Commissions. Prime Minister promises to press for the settlement of impending questions relating to	52

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
86	Sir H. Elliot ..	707	Nov. 1, 1880	Financial question. Baron Haymerle wishes to ascertain Baron Calice's opinion before sending instructions to Constantinople. Extends telegram	53
87	„ „ ..	708 Confidential	2,	Conversation with Baron Haymerle as to possible course of events after cession of Dulcigno and impending Greek question ..	53
88	„ „ ..	710 Confidential	4,	Unexecuted parts of Berlin Treaty. Gives his impressions as to course which Austrian Government may follow. Reference to Mr. Goschen's No. 409	53
89	„ „ ..	713	5,	First public sitting of Austrian Delegations. Baron Hübner's speech. Baron Haymerle's reply, relating to pending questions in the East	54
90	Consul Sanderson ..	6	2,	Further shipment of Greek volunteers from Galatz	55
91	Lord Lyons ..	1041	8,	Ultimate destination of fleet. Extends No. 79.	55
92	„ „ ..	1042	8,	Ultimate destination of fleet. Views of M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire as affecting the Greek question	56
93	Mr. Goschen ..	352 Telegraphic	8,	Preparations for revolt in Armenia. Vice-Consul at Van reports respecting ..	56
94	„ „ ..	353 Telegraphic	8,	Mr. Smith's presentation to the Sultan. Sultan hopes for good news respecting Dulcigno by to-morrow	56
95	„ „ ..	354 Telegraphic	8,	Dulcigno. Sultan wishes for pacific surrender. His message to Mr. Gladstone expressing hopes of immediate accomplishmant of cession	57
96	„ „ ..	355 Telegraphic	9,	Dulcigno cession. Sultan expects to hear satisfactory news either to-night or to-morrow. Reference to No. 95	57
97	Mr. Kirby Green ..	152 Telegraphic	9,	Intrigues of Italian Consul with Notables of Dulcigno. Desirable that he should be removed for a time	57
98	To Sir H. Elliot ..	735	9,	Russian officers in Bulgaria. Thanks Baron Haymerle for communication respecting. May communicate Lieutenant Vincent's Report to Baron Haymerle	57
99	To Mr. Plunkett ..	571	9,	Smyrna proposal. Approves language held to Baron Jomini in connection with	58
100	„ „ ..	583	9,	Russian officers in Balkans. Approves language held to Baron Jomini in reference to representations of Her Majesty's Government respecting	58
101	Consul-General Blunt.	123	Oct. 30,	Capture of Arif Bey by brigands. Forwards despatch from Mr. Longworth respecting ..	58
102	„ „	124	31,	Reports further outrages by brigands in Macedonia	59
103	„ „	125	Nov. 1,	Bulgaro-Macedonian frontier. Incloses memorandum published in the "Sclanik" ..	59
104	„ „	127	1,	Capture by brigands of the Kaimakam of Castana. Transmits extract of letter from Monastir	60
105	„ „	128 Confidential	1,	Movements and inquiries of Austrian Consuls-General. Suspicions as to their object ..	60
106	„ „	129	1,	State of affairs in frontier district of Bulgaria. Incloses letter from Kustandil with regard to	61
107	Mr. Kirby Green ..	339	3,	Montenegro. Conversation with Prince Nicholas on present and future state of his Principality	62
108	Captain Sale ..	31	6,	Albanian positions. Incloses Report by Lieutenant Caillard	63
109	Sir A. Paget ..	151 Telegraphic	10,	Dulcigno. Colonel Ottolerejki considers that there is no chance of cession taking place ..	64
110	To Mr. Plunkett ..	586	10,	Policy of Her Majesty's Government towards Turkey. Approves language held to German and Austrian colleagues in regard to ..	64
111	Mr. Corbett ..	341 Confidential	4,	M. Coumoundouros hopes that fleet will make a demonstration in favour of Greece before dispersing	64

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
112	Sir H. Elliot ..	716	Nov. 8, 1880	Foreign policy of Austria. Transmits report from "Weiner Zeitung"	64
113	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	11,	Mr. Gladstone's speech at the Mansion House has given great satisfaction	68
114	Consul-General Blunt.	Telegraphic	11,	Departure of Turkish frigates with flour and rifles for Albanians	68
115	To Mr. Gould ..	Telegraphic	11,	Endeavour to bring about good understanding between Servia and Austria	68
116	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	11,	Instructions sent to Mr. Gould in sense of his telegrams No. 192 and 193	68
117	To Lord Odo Russell .	726	11,	Eastern question. Conversation with German Ambassador on the subject	68
118	To Sir A. Paget ..	614	11,	Views of Her Majesty's Government on course to be pursued in Turkish affairs. Has explained to General Menabrea	69
119	Mr. Goschen ..	357 Telegraphic	12,	Satisfactory news from Albania as recorded by Turkish Minister	69
120	To Lord Lyons ..	630 Telegraphic	12,	Instructions to Naval Commanders. Objections of Her Majesty's Government to publication of	70
121	Sir A. Paget ..	152 Telegraphic	12,	Intrigues of Italian Consuls with Notables ..	70
122	Mr. Kirby Green ..	153 Telegraphic	12,	Determined opposition of inhabitants of Scutari. Mr. Summa's views	70
123	Mr. Plunkett ..	225 Telegraphic MostConf.	12,	Suspicion of Persian Chargé d'Affaires towards England	70
124	„ „ ..	226 Telegraphic Secret	12,	Mission of twenty Persian officers in disguise to Armenia	71
125	„ „ ..	227 Telegraphic Confidential	12,	Appointment of Prince Ourovsoff as Russian Minister at Bucharest. Growing friendship between Russia and Roumania	71
126	Captain Sale ..	32	8,	Arrival of Dervish Pasha at Scutari. Extender	71
127	Vice-Consul Maling ..	Telegraphic	13,	Torpedoes laid by Turks in Dardanelles. Departure of soldiers and military stores for Volo	72
128	To Sir A. Paget ..	821 Telegraphic	13,	Has mentioned subject of No. 97 to General Menabrea. Need do nothing further in the matter. (Reference to No. 121).. ..	72
129	To Mr. Goschen ..	763 Telegraphic	13,	Turco-Persian frontier. Warn Porte not to countenance the Sheikh, which might lead to hostilities with Persia. (Reference to telegram to Foreign Office, No. 358) ..	72
130	To Sir A. Paget ..	616	13,	Intrigues of Italian Consul. Extends No. 128. (Reference to No. 97)	72
131	Mr. Lascelles ..	163	Oct. 30,	Demolition of fortresses in Bulgaria. Conversation with Mr. Zancoff. Incloses note to his Excellency	73
132	„ „ ..	167	Nov. 1,	Interview with Prince of Bulgaria respecting above note	74
133	Mr. Corbett ..	343	5,	Statement by Minister of Finance to Chambers. His opinion respecting policy to be pursued by Greece	74
134	Consul Freeman ..	5	5,	Bosnia and Herzrgovina. Inclination of inhabitants to emigrate	75
135	Vice-Consul Blakeney	10	6,	Military preparations. Inclosing further information respecting	76
136	Sir H. Elliot ..	717	7,	Baron Hübner's speech on Delegations. Reasons for answer of Baron Haymerle ..	76
137	„ „ ..	718 Very Conf.	7,	Baron Hübner's speech on foreign politics. Emperor's opinion of	77
138	„ „ ..	723	10,	Eastern question. Conversation with Baron Haymerle. His objections to employment of force against Turkey	77
139	„ „ ..	725	11,	Austro-Servian negotiations. Servian Envoy having made required declaration, Austro-Hungarian Government are ready to open negotiations. Extender	78
140	„ „ ..	728	11,	Bulgaria. Prince's language to Mr. Lascelles respecting occupation of Balkans by Turks ..	78
141	Mr. Plunkett ..	525 Secret	Nov. 8,	Anglo-Russian alliance. Baron Jomini's views as to expediency of. Extends No. 80 .	79
142	Sir J. Walsham ..	525 Very Conf.	13,	Relations between Russia, Austria, and Germany	79
143	„ „ ..	527 Confidential	13,	Departure of M. Radowitz for Athens ..	80

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
144	Sir A. Paget ..	505	Nov. 11, 1880	Dulcigno. Unsatisfactory news reported by Colonel Ottolenghi. Conversation with Count Cairoli	81
145	Mr. Goschen ..	359 Telegraphic	14,	Austrian Ambassador reports encouraging news from Scutari	81
146	Mr. Kirby Green ..	154 Telegraphic	15,	Reported threatening of Turkish troops by Albanians, as stated by Captain of Austrian man-of-war, untrue	81
147	Consul-General Blunt	Telegraphic	15,	Enrolment of four battalions of Redifs at Monastir	81
148	To Mr. Kirby Green .	140	15,	Reported ill-treatment of Mussulmans by Prince of Montenegro. Approves steps taken to dissuade Prince from appealing to Powers on account of misrepresentations by Porte respecting	82
149	„ „ ..	141	15,	Approves language to Prince of Montenegro in his No. 339	82
150	Mr. Corbett ..	331 Secret and Confidential	Oct. 28,	Audience of the King. Extends telegram ..	82
151	„ „ ..	339	Nov. 2,	Greek frontier. Explanation of M. Coumoundouros to Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires respecting his recent statement in Chamber unsatisfactory	82
152	Mr. Stephen ..	358	Oct. 28,	Ijret claim. Commission appointed at Bourgas for settement of. Promise of Governor-General to appoint similar Commissions in other Departments	83
153	„ „ ..	359 Confidential	Nov. 1,	Proposed Catholic protectorate over Bulgarian Church. Draws attention to matters bearing upon above. Incloses article from "Gazetta Italia"	83
154	Mr. Stephen ..	360	3,	Eastern Roumelian census. Forwards statistics	85
155	„ „ ..	361	4,	Four villages in Dospat district, referred to in Colonel Wilson's Report No. 1 on Macedonia. Porte has ordered Governor-General of Salonica to hand over to Eastern Roumelia	85
156	„ „ ..	362	5,	Speech of Governor-General to the Provincial Assembly. Relates to financial question and other matters referred to therein	85
157	Mr. Goschen ..	536	5,	Colonel Kommerau's murderer. Incloses note to Porte respecting execution of sentence on.	86
158	„ „ ..	548	9,	Suspension of "Terdjumani Hakikat." Refusal of Sultan to remove	87
159	„ „ ..	554	9,	Dulcigno. Conversation with Sultan. Extends telegram	87
160	Sir J. Walsham ..	118 Telegraphic Very Conf.	16,	Mr. Gladstone's speech. Prince Bismarck's opinion on	89
161	To Mr. Goschen ..	764 Telegraphic	16,	Colonel Wilson's Report on Eastern Roumelia of the 26th August. Asks for nationality of certain persons mentioned in above ..	89
162	To Mr. Plunkett ..	592	16,	Dulcigno. Views of M. de Giers as to course of affairs. Communicated by Russian Ambassador	89
163	Mr. Kirby Green ..	340 Confidential	9,	Montenegrin war preparations at Vienna. Encouragement given by Austro-Hungarian Government to War Minister	90
164	„ „ ..	341 Confidential	10,	Continuation of above	90
165	Captain Sale ..	33	12,	Montenegrin frontier. Information from various sources at Scutari telegraphed by Lieutenant Caillard	91
166	Mr. Gould	Telegraphic	17,	Intrigues of Russian Minister against present Administration	92
167	Mr. Goschen ..	555	12,	Award of Boundary Commission. Slave Trade Convention. Piracy in Persian Gulf. Conversation with Ministers respecting above. Necessity of high-handed measures being taken for their settlement ..	92
168	Mr. Greene ..	347	11,	Arrival of volunteers from Galatz and Danube ports. Government unwilling to enrol further members in the ranks	92

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
169	Mr. Greene ..	348	Nov. 11, 1880	Debate on Address in reply to King's speech opened yesterday. Incloses M. Tricoupi's speech and further particulars	93
170	To Sir A. Paget ..	623	18,	Montenegrin and Greek questions. Desire of Italy to act with Her Majesty's Government. Statement of policy of Her Majesty's Government	95
171	Consul-General Blunt.	131	9,	Outrages by brigands in Macedonia. Inclosing telegrams from Mr. Blunt to Constantinople on the subject	96
172	„ „ ..	132	9,	Lawlessness at Cossova. Departure of Austro-Hungarian Consul for Uscup	97
173	Mr. Kirby Green ..	343	13,	Dulcigno. Observations on further delay demanded by Porte	97
174	Vice-Consul Blakeney.	11	13,	Military preparations. Incloses copy of despatch to Mr. Goschen relating to	98
175	Captain Sale ..	Telegraphic	20,	Disbanding of Montenegrin troops at Sutoman	99
176	Mr. Plunkett ..	530 Secret	12,	Reported mission of Russian officers to Armenia. Extender	99
177	„ „ ..	531 Confidential	12,	Roumania and Russia. Conversation with Roumanian Minister on increased friendliness between. Extender	99
178	„ „ ..	538	15,	Refugees at Karamaja. Has given to Baron Jomini inclosure in Colonel Wilson's Report	100
179	„ „ ..	539	17,	Mr. Gladstone's speech at Guildhall. Incloses articles from the "Golos" and "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" on the subject ..	100
180	„ „ ..	548	17,	Eastern Roumelia. Prince Tcherkeleff's remarks on Colonel Wilson's Report (communicated by Baron Jomini). Referred to in No. 178	101
181	Sir J. Walsham ..	529 Very Conf.	16,	Extends No. 160	102
182	„ „ ..	532 Confidential	17,	Greek question. Conversation with M. Rangabé. Reference to No. 143	103
183	To Mr. Goschen ..	769 Telegraphic	22,	Thessaly and Epirus. Suspend action respecting sale of land. Reference to No. 83 ..	103
184	Mr. Goschen ..	361 Telegraphic	22,	Dulcigno. Favourable telegrams from Dervish Pasha	103
185	To Mr. Kirby Green..	133 Telegraphic	22,	Has instructed Mr. Plunkett to ask Russian Government to advise Prince of Montenegro to be prepared for cession	104
186	Mr. Kirby Green ..	155 Telegraphic	22,	Dulcigno. News still unsatisfactory ..	104
187	„ „ ..	156 Telegraphic	22,	Encounter of Dervish Pasha with Albanians ..	104
188	„ „ ..	157 Telegraphic	22,	Montenegrin version of above should be accepted with caution	104
189	To Mr. Goschen ..	700	22	Suppression of Terdjimani Hakikat, and conversation with Sultan. Approves language as recorded in No. 158	105
190	„ „ ..	701	22,	Sale of State lands in districts to be ceded to Greece. Discusses objections ..	105
191	To Mr. Plunkett ..	594 Secret	22,	Proposed Anglo-Russian alliance. Approves reply to Baron Jomini, as reported in No. 141	105
192	To Sir H. Elliot ..	762	22,	Bulgarian fortresses. Ascertain views of Austro-Hungarian Government as to formation of a Commission to inquire into ..	106
193	Mr. Goschen ..	564	15,	Military preparations in Trebizond district. Inclosing despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting	106
194*	„ „ ..	579	16,	Dulcigno. Situation as regards	107*
194	„ „ ..	571	15,	Nomination of Ahmet Agha to Dospat. Inclosing note from Assim Pasha in answer to communication respecting ..	107
195	Mr. Plunkett ..	547 Confidential	17,	Russia and England. Baron Jomini has only once alluded to desire for alliance since No. 141	107
196	Sir H. Elliot ..	743 Confidential	18,	Bulgarian Church. Austro-Hungarian Government unfavourable to Catholic protection of. Conversation with Baron Haymerle ..	108
197	Consul Dennis ..	Telegraphic	22,	Calling out of reserves of 1874 and 1877 through Province of Smyrna. Departure of soldiers for Dardanelles	108

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
198	Mr. Goschen ..	362 Telegraphic	Nov. 22, 1880	Dulcigno. Confirmation of No. 184. Advisable to consult Russia on advice to be given to Montenegro	109
199	To Mr. Plunkett ..	910 Telegraphic	23,	Dulcigno. Endeavour to come to an agreement with Russian Government as suggested in No. 198	109
200	To Mr. Kirby Green (also to Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Sir H Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell)	132 Telegraphic	23,	Repeats No. 198	109
201	Captain Sale ..	44 Telegraphic	23,	Difficulties of communication with Antivari owing to Clause XXIX of Berlin Treaty. Will Austrian Government facilitate communications	109
202	To Lord Lyons (also to Mr. Plunkett, Sir A. Paget, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell) ..	637 Telegraphic	23,	Forwards substance of Mr. F. Green's Nos. 155, 156, and 157	110
203	To Mr. Plunkett ..	595	23,	Dulcigno. Extends No. 199	110
204	To Sir H. Elliot ..	763A	23,	Eastern question. Policies of Her Majesty's Government and Austro-Hungarian Government. Baron Haymerle's despatch respecting. Replies made respecting difference in	110
205	Sir A. Paget ..	508	12,	Signor Zerboni's leave from Scutari. Asks whether to make suggestions respecting. Extends telegram	113
206	„ „	528	20,	Signor Zerboni. Conversation with Count Maffei on his intrigues	113
207	Mr. Corbett ..	355	18.	Instructions to M. de Radowitz. No similar instructions received by colleagues. Has abstained from advising Greece further on frontier question	114
208	„ „ ..	356 Confidential	18.	Military preparations. Answer to King's Speech at opening of Chamber not yet voted	114
209	Mr. Goschen ..	584 Very Conf.	19.	Greek question. Extract of conversation between M. Tissot and Assim Pasha on the subject	115
210	„ „ ..	586	19,	Pending questions. Informal and friendly meeting of Ambassadors to consider ..	115
211	Captain Sale ..	..	18,	*Status quo* line of Montenegrin frontier. Forwards definition of	116
212	Mr. Kirby Green ..	158 Telegraphic	23,	Dulcigno Convention. Turkish Commander-in-chief will send Delegate to Koniа to-morrow to conclude Convention	117
213	To Sir H. Elliot ..	835 Telegraphic	24,	Difficulties of communications with Antivari. Will Austrian Government give permission required in No. 201 if no precedent is established	117
214	Captain Sale ..	45 Telegraphic	24,	Dulcigno. Dervish Pasha has taken possession	118
215	Mr. Corbett ..	57 Telegraphic	24,	Arrival of M. de Radowitz	118
216	To Mr. Goschen ..	775 Telegraphic	24,	Dulcigno. After cession make suitable acknowledgments within due limits	118
217	Mr. Kirby Green ..	159 Telegraphic	24.	Montenegrin force will shortly be collected at Suturman and ready to advance at a moment's notice. Reference to No. 200 ..	118
218	Mr. Plunkett .	230 Telegraphic	24.	Advice of Russia to Prince of Montenegro. Disinclination of Baron Jomini to give advice as suggested in No. 199	118
219	Mr. Goschen ..	362 Telegraphic	24.	Dulcigno. Arrival of Dervish Pasha. Defeat of Albanians	119
220	To Mr. Goschen ..	702	24,	Kurdish insurrection. Has received telegram from Mr. Thomson respecting. Extender.	119
221	„ „ ..	703	24,	Dulcigno. Extends No. 216	119
222	To Mr. Plunkett ..	660	24.	Dulcigno. Opinion of Prince Labanov that settlement of question is as much desired at Cettinjé as elsewhere	120
223	To Sir H. Elliot ..	764	24,	Difficulties of communication with Antivari. Extends No. 213	120
224	Mr. Kirby Green ..	160 Telegraphic	24,	Mr. Summa's message respecting Turkish Commander-in-chief and movements of volunteers at Scutari	120

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
225	Mr. Kirby Green ..	161 Telegraphic	Nov. 25, 1880	Dulcigno. Meeting of Montenegrin and Turkish Delegates. Necessity of immediate surrender of Dulcigno	120
226	To Mr. Goschen ..	778 Telegraphic	25,	Dervish Pasha's advance. Telegrams respecting have crossed	121
227	Sir H. Elliot ..	198 Telegraphic	25,	Dulcigno. Austria has urged Prince to raise no difficulties respecting details of transfer ..	121
228	„ „ ..	199 Telegraphic	25,	Difficulties of communication with Antivari. Austro-Hungarian Government agree to proposal in No. 213	121
229	Captain Sale ..	46 Telegraphic	25,	Leaves Antivari. Asks for instructions as to movements	121
230	Mr. Kirby Green ..	163 Telegraphic	25,	Dulcigno ceded. All quiet at Scutari. Telegram from Mr. Summa	122
231	Mr. Goschen ..	364 Telegraphic	25,	Dulcigno. No fresh news at Porte respecting. Terms of Dervish Pasha's Proclamation satisfactory	122
232	Mr. Kirby Green ..	164 Telegraphic	26,	Convention signed. Montenegrin troops will commence their advance to-day	122
233	To Sir H. Elliot ..	842 Telegraphic	26,	Frontier north of lake. Ask Austrian Government what steps they propose after cession of Dulcigno	122
234	To Captain Sale ..	44 Telegraphic	26,	Gives instructions as to movements. Reference to No. 229	122
235	To Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, Constantinople, and St Petersburgh	Telegraphic	26,	Instructions to Captain Sale. Asks Mr. Goschen's opinion as to immediate delimitation	122
236	Captain Sale ..	Telegraphic	26,	Advance of Montenegrins from Kunia. Has read Convention, which appears suitable ..	123
237	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	26,	Advance of Montenegrins. Departure of one battalion to Dulcigno	123
238	„ „ ..	47 Telegraphic	26,	Occupation of Mazura boundaries by Montenegro. Whole district will be transferred to-morrow	123
239	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	26,	His address and movements	123
240	Mr. Plunkett ..	231 Telegraphic Confidential	26,	Persia and Russia. Nothing known respecting Russian Consul-General from Tabreez ..	123
241	To Embassies at St. Petersburgh, Berlin, Vienna, and Rome	Telegraphic	26,	Directions to Admirals after cession of Dulcigno. Asks Governments to make arrangements	124
242	To Sir H. Elliot (also to Berlin, Rome, Paris, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople)	766	26.	Extends No. 235	124
243	To Sir H. Elliot ..	767	26,	Frontier north of lake. Extends No. 233 ..	124
244	To Sir H. Elliot (also to Berlin, Rome, and St. Petersburgh)	768	26,	Extends No. 241	124
245	To Captain Sale ..	36	26,	Sends instructions as to movements. Extends No. 234	125
246	Mr. Kirby Green ..	344	15,	Arrival of arms. Probable understanding between Montenegrin and Austrian Governments respecting. Reference to Nos. 163, 164..	125
247	Vice-Consul Blakeney	12	20,	Military preparations. Incloses copy of despatch No. 55 to Mr. Goschen respecting ..	126
248	Mr. Kirby Green ..	165 Telegraphic	26,	Occupation of the Mazura. Continued march towards Dulcigno	127
249	Mr. Plunkett ..	232 Telegraphic	26,	Proposed advice to Montenegro. Emperor approves observations made by Russian Chargé d'Affaires to Mr. Goschen. Reference to No. 218	127
250	Captain Sale ..	48 Telegraphic	27,	Peaceable surrender of Dulcigno	127
251	Mr. Goschen ..	Telegraphic	26,	Dulcigno. Extension of time to Montenegrin Government	127
252	Mr. Plunkett ..	233 Telegraphic	27,	Movements of fleet after cession. Discrepancy between orders sent to Naval Commander and sense of telegram of the 9th	128

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
253	Lord Lyons ..	125 Telegraphic	Nov. 27, 1880	Delineation of Dulcigno frontier. French Government consider should be proceeded with immediately. Reference to No. 235 ..	128
254	„ „ ..	126 Telegraphic	27,	Movements of fleet after cession of Dulcigno. Views of French Government as to ..	128
255	Lord Odo Russell ..	123 Telegraphic	27,	Delineation of Dulcigno frontier. German Commander will be instructed to take part in as soon as Powers are agreed	128
256	„ „ .	124 Telegraphic	27,	Movements of fleet after cession. Germany will await decision of Powers	128
257	Mr. Plunkett ..	235 Telegraphic	27,	Movements of fleet after cession. Explanation of discrepancy alluded to in No. 252. Views of Russian Government respecting ..	129
258	Mr. Corbett ..	58 Telegraphic	27,	Arrival of M. de Moüy. His explanation of views of France towards Greece	129
259	Mr. Goschen ..	Confidential 367 Telegraphic	27,	Dulcigno. No news received at present by Porte of occupation	129
260	Mr. Kirby Green ..	176 Telegraphic	27,	Peaceful occupation of Dulcigno	129
261	„ „ ..	167 Telegraphic	27,	Settlement of Montenegrin question. Thanks of Prince Nicholas for leading part taken by Her Majesty's Government	130
262	„ „ ..	168 Telegraphic	27,	Mussulmans referred to in his despatch No. 117 have been released by order of Prince ..	130
263	„ „ ..	169 Telegraphic	27,	Surrender of Dulcigno. Courteous telegram of Prince to Sultan conveying thanks ..	130
264	„ „ ..	170 Telegraphic	27,	Dulcigno. All quiet. Publication of amnesty by Dervish Pasha	130
265	„ „ ..	171 Telegraphic	27,	Entry of Montenegrin Commander-in-chief into Dulcigno. Satisfaction of inhabitants .	130
266	„ „ ..	173 Telegraphic	28,	Occupation of all points except St. George by Montenegrin Commander-in-chief. Telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 170	131
267	„ „ ..	174 Telegraphic	28,	Boundary of new frontier between sea and Lake of Scutari. Montenegrin note to Powers urging immediate reassembly of Commission	131
268	Sir A. Paget ..	154 Telegraphic	27,	Delineation of Montenegrin frontier. Italian Government will be ready to proceed at once if Cabinets agree	131
269	Sir H. Elliot ..	200 Telegraphic	28,	Delineation of Montenegrin frontier. Baron Haymerle's reasons for advocating delay ..	131
270	„ „ ..	201 Telegraphic	28,	Movements of fleet. Views of Baron Haymerle as to termination of naval demonstration ..	131
271	Mr. Goschen ..	368 Telegraphic	28,	Delineation of frontier. Considers it inadvisable to press for immediately	132
272	Mr. Lascelles ..	170	13,	Non-fulfilment by Bulgarian Government of Berlin Treaty. Incloses reply of M. Zancoff to note of the 25th ultimo respecting. Incloses note from General Ehrnrooth to M. Zancoff on same subject	132
273	„ „ ..	171	13,	Non-fulfilment by Bulgarian Government of Berlin Treaty. Representation by Italian Consul-General to M. Zancoff respecting. Reference to No. 272	135
274	Mr. Gould. . ..	109 Confidential	17,	Volunteers in Servo-Turkish Campaign of 1876. Approaching ceremony of inauguration of monuments to, at Alexinatz ..	135
275	Sir H. Elliot ..	747	21,	Servian, Bulgarian, and Roumanian frontiers. Instructions sent to Baron Calice to address note to Porte respecting final settlement of..	135
276	„ „ ..	749	24,	Bulgarian fortresses. Non-demolition of. General Ehrnrooth's letter, and Austro-Hungarian Government's views	136
277	„ „ ..	750 Confidential	24,	Greek army. State of. Austro-Hungarian Government's views respecting	136
278	„ „ ..	752 Confidential	25,	Surrender of Dulcigno. Detention of Turkish stores in Bosnia	138
279	„ „ ..	753 Confidential	25,	Albanians. Meeting of Albanians against annexation. Report of Austro-Hungarian Government's Consul at Janina	139
280	„ „ ..	758	25,	Cession of Dulcigno. Instructions to Austro-Hungarian Representative at Cettinjé respecting advice to Prince. Extender ..	140
281	„ „ ..	760	25,	Montenegrin frontier. Extends telegram ..	140

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
282	Lord Odo Russell ..	548	Nov. 27, 1880	Extends No. 255	140
283	„ „ ..	550	27,	Extends No. 256	141
284	Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey	Telegraphic	26,	Occupation of Dulcigno by Dervish Pasha. Forwards note addressed to the Representatives of Powers announcing	141
285	Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey	Telegraphic	28,	Cession of Dulcigno. Announcing .. .	142
286	Prince Lobanow ..	..	29,	Montenegrin delimitation. Incloses telegram from Livadia giving views of Russia respecting immediate completion of ..	142
287	Mr. Kirby Green ..	175 Telegraphic	28,	Reported raid of Mussulmans at Kolasin on Montenegrins. Has urged moderation on Montenegrins .. .	142
288	Captain Sale ..	49 Telegraphic	28,	All district of Dulcigno ceded, excepting a point at north-east limit	142
289	„ „ ..	50 Telegraphic	28,	Is starting for Ragusa	143
290	To Sir H. Elliot ..	847 Telegraphic	29,	Separation of fleet. Express hope to Baron Haymerle that Austria will not separate from Powers in form proposed for	143
591	To Mr. Kirby Green .	137 Telegraphic	29,	Peaceable occupation of Dulcigno. Congratulate Prince of Montenegro on. Approves Mr. Green	143
292	To Captain Sale ..	45 Telegraphic	29,	Occupation of Dulcigno. Has received telegram respecting. Approves Captain Sale ..	143
293	Mr. Kirby Green ..	176 Telegraphic	29,	Cession of Dulcigno. Question respecting Port St. George only. Matter to be settled	143
294	„ „ ..	177 Telegraphic	29,	Distress in district of Velika. Prince ready to accept appointment of Mussulman functionary to administer locality	143
295	„ „ ..	178 Telegraphic	29,	All quiet in Albania. Telegram from Mr. Summa	144
296	Mr. Plunkett ..	236 Telegraphic	29,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Views of Russian Government. Communicated by Baron Jomini	144
297	„ „ ..	237 Telegraphic	29,	Movements of fleet after cession. Russia adheres to text of English proposition respecting. Reference to No. 257.. ..	144
298	To Sir H. Elliot ..	769	29,	Movements of fleet. Extends No. 220. Reference to No. 270	144
299	„ „ ..	770	29,	Movements of fleet. Conversation with M. de Hengelmüller respecting ..	145
300	„ „ ..	772	29,	Montenegrin frontier delimitation. Interview with M. de Hengelmüller. Extends telegram	145
301	Mr. Stephen ..	363	10,	Macedonian Society. Incloses despatch from "Narodni Glas" on the subject	145
302	„ „ ..	364	15,	Loan to Eastern Roumelia by Bulgaria. Repayment of with interest	146
303	„ „ ..	365	16,	Dismissal of Captain Yacharoff from provincial militia	147
304	„ „ ..	366	18,	M. Farey's railway scheme. His visit to Philippopoli	147
305	„ „ ..	368	20,	Report presented to Assembly by Permanent Committee. Forwards: with list of new Committee	147
306	Mr. Goschen ..	588	20,	Military preparations continue	156
307	„ „ ..	589	21,	Railway projects between Austria, Servia, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Forwards Mr. Vincent's memorandum, with extract from "Courier d'Orient" on the same subject ..	156
308	„ „ ..	600	22,	Dulcigno. Ambassadors have asked for more precise information	161
309	„ „ ..	603 Very Conf.	22,	Dulcigno. Russians seem averse to urging Montenegrins	162
310	„ „ ..	604	23,	International Financial Commission. Views as to rejection of note from the Porte of the 3rd October	163
311	„ „ ..	605	23,	Dulcigno. Promise of cession not extorted by French and German Representatives ..	164
312	Lord Lyons ..	1089	7,	Delineation of Dulcigno frontier. Extends No. 253	165
313	„ „ ..	1091	27,	Movements of fleet after cession of Dulcigno. Extends No. 254	165

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
314	Sir H. Elliot ..	203 Telegraphic	Nov. 30, 1880	Movements of fleet. Baron Haymerle's views respecting naval demonstration	166
315	" " ..	204 Telegraphic	30,	Montenegrin Boundary Commission. Baron Haymerle's instructions to Austro-Hungarian Minister at Cettinjé respecting	166
316	Mr. Kirby Green ..	180 Telegraphic	30,	Gratitude of Prince of Montenegro to Her Majesty's Government. Reference to No. 291. Thanks for approval	166
317	Lord Lyons ..	127 Telegraphic	30,	Delineation of Montenegrin frontier. Difficulties in the way of continuing at present ..	166
318	To Sir H. Elliot ..	852 Telegraphic	30,	Ditto. Best to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, after communication with Representatives at Scutari, to settle ..	167
319	To Mr. Goschen ..	799 Confidential Telegraphic	30,	Turkish finance. Scheme submitted to Baron Haymerle for dealing with	167
320	To Mr. Kirby Green .	144	30,	Expression of thanks from Prince of Montenegro, conveyed in No. 315. Convey thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his friendly sentiments	167
321	To Admiralty ..	..	30,	Instructions to Admirals. Proposal has been made to various Governments respecting ..	167

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. December 1880.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LV.

No. 1.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

E (No. 156.)

Sophia, October 13, 1880.

My Lord,

NIHAD PASHA has informed me that, in consequence of instructions he has received from the Porte, he has made a representation to M. Zancoff with regard to the decision come to by the Bulgarian Government to proceed with the enrolment of Mussulmans in the Bulgarian army.

Nihad Pasha has pointed out that there is no objection in principle to the Mussulmans bearing their share of military service, and that the Mussulmans themselves look upon military service not only as a duty but also as a right. Under existing circumstances, however, the enrolment of Mussulmans this year would have the effect of taking away from Mussulman families their most useful members and thus preventing them from recovering from the disasters which have befallen them. Nihad Pasha added that in Servia and in Roumania the enrolment of Mussulmans has been adjourned.

M. Zancoff replied that, as according to the Bulgarian Constitution military service was obligatory for all Bulgarian subjects, it was impossible to alter the decision which the Government had taken. He believed that the opposition was caused by the fanaticism of some Turkish inhabitants of the towns, who, however, intended to leave the country as soon as they had disposed of their property. He said, however, that he would submit to the Council of Ministers the question of the enlistment of the members of those Mussulman families who had only recently returned to the Principality, with the view of obtaining a modification in their favour of the decision in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 2.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

E (No. 161.)

Sophia, October 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Varna on the subject of the opposition raised to the measures adopted by the Commssion for reinstating the Mussulman population in their property on the part of the Bulgarians by whom the property had been occupied.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Varna, October 9, 1880.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 20th March and in that of the 5th June, 1880, I had the honour to report upon the fact of nine neighbouring Mahommedan villages, viz., Sari Gueul, Adjemlar, Pasha-Keuï, Rousslar, Indje-Keuï, Gueunalsi, Franka, Kara Ghior, and Tatar Mahalesi, having been seized upon by Bulgarian immigrants, and their lawful owners (who had not, as many others, abandoned the country during the Russian occupation) being kept out of their homes and lands, and consequently of their means of subsistence, notwithstanding their repeated petitions to the authorities upon the subject.

Some time ago Commissions were formed for the purpose of reinstating the Mussulman population into their properties in Bulgaria, and as Chief Commissioner in these parts was appointed M. Stoyanof, ex-Governor of the province. About three weeks or a month ago the Commission entered upon their task and endeavoured to bring about a tardy instalment of justice, which, although scant, was based upon right principles, considering the obstacles to be contended with.

The following decisions were then come to by the Commission :—

1. That the fields cultivated last year by the Bulgars should be delivered over to the rightful owners, the Bulgars to keep the entirety of the crops sown by them.

2. That the fields ploughed this year ready for sowing were to be divided, half to the Bulgarian immigrants, half to the Mussulman peasant owners.

3. That every Mussulman family was to give 10 deunums (about 2¼ acres) of land to each Bulgarian family, who at the end of the cereal year (1881) were to pay them therefor 2 Varna kiles (8 bushels) of the crop thereon sown.

This arrangement met with great opposition on the part of the Bulgarian interlopers, their part being also taken by a local print, which, instead of seizing the opportunity of showing that the authorities did their best to remedy pre-existing evils, bewailed the cruelty of the proceedings towards the Bulgars who were not allowed to enjoy in peace other people's belongings, and inveighed bitterly against M. Stoyanof against whom the editor of the paper seems to be animated by a personal grudge or jealousy.

The matter came to a head last Sunday, the 3rd instant, when about forty Bulgars set upon Hassan Agha, of the village of Sari Gueul, inflicting several serious knife wounds upon him. Some of the younger Turks in the neighbourhood wanted to set upon the aggressors, but were restrained by the elder men of their villages, who expostulated with the Bulgarian squatters, and represented that the decision had been arrived at by their own authorities. The Bulgars retorted by driving out by force all the men, adding, "We do not mean to recognize any measures of the Government which are against our interests; you are Turks, you have no right to property in Bulgaria, which belongs to the Bulgars alone; be off with you, and starve, for all we care."

The Turks were not allowed to fetch their women and children remaining in the houses, and so came straight to Varna and addressed their complaints to the local and central authorities.

At Shumla and elsewhere where the Bulgars have occupied lands owned by the Mahommedan peasant owners, they have had recourse to similar means to establish their usurpations.

It is hardly needful to remark that it is desirable that the hands of the Executive should be strengthened in carrying out measures characterized by justice, otherwise the country will pursue its tendency of falling into a kind of organized anarchy fomented by and but slightly controlled by secret Societies.

The *soi-disant* Varna Commercial Society, the true object of which I explained in my despatch of the 14th August, has decided for the present to put off its more active measures until the middle of March next year; in the meantime it has ordered several thousand pairs of "tcharreks" (sandals), and, as the local shoemakers would not give a low enough tender, it has been decided that the troops in the barracks should be employed upon their preparation, which is very easy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 3.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 684. Extender.)

My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 24*, 1880.

THE draft Convention proposed by the Turkish Delegate for the surrender of Dulcigno was given in Mr. Green's telegram, repeated to me by your Lordship in your telegram No. 783, in a more complete shape than that in which it had reached the Austro-Hungarian Government, and when I communicated it to them they appeared to think that it might very well be accepted by the Prince of Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 4.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 686. Extender.)

My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 24*, 1880.

AS directed by your Lordship, I have asked Baron Haymerle what he would propose to do if the Turks played false about the cession of Dulcigno, but his Excellency is not at present prepared to give any opinion upon the course that should be followed.

The Sultan having promised categorically that on the 27th instant the place shall be given up, he thinks that, till it is seen whether the promise is fulfilled, it is necessary to wait before settling what ought to be done in the event of its being evaded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 5.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

E

(No. 687. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 25*, 1880.

IT appears from Mr. Plunkett's despatches that the Russian Government do not expect that, if the Porte declines to carry out the cession of Dulcigno, the occupation of Smyrna would be sufficient to overcome the obstinacy of the Sultan, and that further measures of coercion, probably before Constantinople itself, would become necessary.

It is the apprehension that this would prove the case, together with the fear that, if assistance was offered, it would have to be overcome by an employment of force amounting to actual hostility against Turkey, that determined the Austro-Hungarian Government at once to decline taking part in the measure, and I do not anticipate that, under any circumstances, it will be possible to induce them to reconsider their resolution.

There is no doubt that, in consenting to join in the naval demonstration before Dulcigno, they have gone beyond what is approved by public opinion in Austria or in Hungary, and they will hardly go still further counter to it.

They will do their utmost to act with Her Majesty's Government as long as they can do so without being involved in acts of war against Turkey, but they would stand altogether aloof rather than incur the risk of it, though the French Government are mistaken in supposing, as appears from Lord Lyons' despatches, that the Austrian Government, while declining to join in the occupation of Smyrna, were desirous that it should take place.

I believe the very contrary to be the fact, and that the nervous dread which they entertain of any Power being involved in the war with Turkey made them regard with the greatest apprehension a proposal which they think may possibly lead to it.

Though neither excusing nor palliating the proceedings of the Porte, they are far from satisfied by the attitude of the Prince of Montenegro, whom they believe to be passively led by the Russian Government, which they have throughout suspected of being less desirous of having the frontier question settled without the intervention of the fleets than of seeing the latter use actual force to bring it about.

The strength of the Albanians in the neighbourhood of Dulcigno is stated to be

now reduced to less than 800 men, and I gather very clearly, from the language both of Baron Haymerle and M. de Kállay, that, if the Prince should not advance upon the Turks evacuating, they will consider the demonstration to have come to an end, according to the provision which they made such a point of inserting in the instructions to the Admirals.

I have pointed out that Mr. Green reports the Prince to be actuated by the most conciliatory disposition, and that he considers him justified in the caution he is showing, but I may mention to your Lordship very confidentially that the Government attach little value to the appreciation of the state of things either by Major Thömmel, their own Minister, or by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, both of whom they consider to see matters very much with the Prince's eyes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 6.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

E. MS.
(No. 689. Very Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, October 27, 1880.

My Lord,

IN a conversation of a few minutes which I had yesterday with the Emperor, he spoke with much indignation of the inconceivable bad faith with which the Porte had acted about the cession of Dulcigno, and I took the opportunity of expressing the regret of Her Majesty's Government that he should not have been willing to associate himself in the step which had been proposed for bringing the Turks to reason by the occupation of Smyrna.

His Majesty answered that he must frankly say that, in such a step, it was impossible for him to follow us; he had every desire to act with Her Majesty's Government, but there was a limit beyond which he could not extend his own action, though he gave his warmest good wishes for the success of the measures that Her Majesty's Government might take to bring about a settlement of the present difficulties, even if he did not associate himself in them.

From the resolute tone in which the Emperor spoke of his decision, it would have been unbecoming, as well as obviously ineffectual, to have attempted to go into further discussion of the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 7.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

E
(No. 691. Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, October 27, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship having requested that the Austro-Hungarian Government would communicate to Her Majesty's Government any information that they had received respecting the Russian officers, non-commissioned officers, and arms that have been sent to Bulgaria, I have the honour to inclose a statement that has been prepared from the Reports of the Imperial Agents upon that subject.

Baron Haymerle requests that the communication may be considered as being made confidentially, and not for publication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Pro-memoria.

Officiers et Sous-Officiers Russes en Bulgarie.—Le nombre total d'officiers et de sous-officiers Russes venus en Bulgarie cette année monte approximativement à

396 officiers et à 444 sous-officiers, dont la plus grande partie, savoir: 200 officiers et 330 sous-officiers, sont arrivés dans les mois de Mars, Avril, et Mai.

Les officiers étaient souvent accompagnés d'une ou de deux ordonnances. A ces soldats il faut ajouter encore 60 hommes qui accompagnaient un envoi de chevaux et 250 soldats du train.

Envois d'Armes, de Munitions, et d'autre Matériel de Guerre.—Quant aux fusils envoyés de la Russie en Bulgarie, il est difficile d'en donner le chiffre exact; à peu près 48,000 en sont arrivés depuis le mois de Mars jusqu'au commencement du mois de Juillet et 17,000 depuis ce terme jusqu'à la fin du mois d'Août de l'année courante, en tout 65,000 pièces. Ce sont des fusils de divers systèmes, la plus grande partie est du système Berdan, une autre non moins considérable du système Chassepôt.

En fait de canons nous savons que la Bulgarie a reçu cette année de la Russie cinq batteries dont deux composées de canons Krupp, mais il y a lieu de croire que le nombre total de canons importés de la Russie est plus considérable encore.

Pour ce qui regarde les munitions importées, il nous est également impossible d'indiquer un chiffre exact. Il résulte seulement des informations que nous possédons, que des quantités considérables de munition sont arrivées en Bulgarie aux mois de Mars et de Juin.

Le 1er Août deux bateaux à vapeur et sept slepps ont débarqué de la munition dans différents ports du Danube; le 11 du même mois 8,000 caisses de cartouches de fusil et une quantité d'obus y furent déposées par un autre bateau.

Le nombre de chevaux venus de la Russie et destinés pour l'armée Bulgare s'élève à 1,600.

Parmi les envois d'autre matériel de guerre les objets du train occupent une place importante, mais il y a également des articles d'habillement et d'équipement et d'autres à l'usage de l'armée que la Russie a fournis en grand nombre à la Bulgarie.

Flottille Bulgare.—La Bulgarie possède sur le Danube une flottille qui est composée de quatre bateaux à vapeur, savoir: le monitor blindé "Paravin," un bateau à aubes nommé "Golubcik," deux bateaux-transport nommés "Zwriew" et "Opit," et un petit bateau à vapeur nouvellement arrivé. Outre ces bâtiments elle entretient encore six bateaux-torpilles.

Tout le matériel flottant a été envoyé de la Russie.

Malgré les assurances du Gouvernement Bulgare de vendre tous ces bâtiments, ils continuent à naviguer sur le Danube et servent même très-souvent au transport du matériel de guerre.

En général les chiffres ci-haut indiqués coïncident avec ceux contenus dans le Mémoire Anglais.

Confrontation des Données Austro-Hongroises avec les Données Anglaises.—Voici la comparaison de nos données avec celles que le Gouvernement Anglais a bien voulu nous faire connaître:

Officiers et Sous-Officiers.

Date de l'Arrivée.	Nombre d'après les Informations Austro-Hongroises.		Nombre d'après les Informations Anglaises.
	Officiers.	Sous-Officiers.	
Mai	200	150	184
	..	180	103
	35	42	78
	..	..	200
Depuis le mois de Mai jusqu'au 5 Août	14	40	15
Depuis le 5 Août jusqu'au 2 Septembre	40	..	30
Total	289	412	670 Officiers et Sous-Officiers.
	Total Général, 701.		
	Canons.		
Mars	3 batteries = 24 pièces d'artillerie		..
11 Août	2 „ = 16 canons Krupp		16 canons Krupp
	40 pièces d'artillerie		16 pièces d'artill.
	Fusils.		
Depuis le mois de Mai jusqu'au 6 Août	65,000		69,460

État des Forteresses Bulgares.—Presque toutes les forteresses de la Bulgarie dont le Traité de Berlin stipule la démolition complète se trouvent encore dans le même état qu'immédiatement après l'évacuation par l'armée Russe, c'est-à-dire elles ne sont démantelées qu'en partie et à la rigueur elles pourraient être mises en état de défense moyennant des travaux d'une exécution facile. Dans plusieurs places fortes on avait commencé déjà la démolition en se servant du matériel pour des constructions d'utilité publique, ou bien on le vendait à ceux qui voulaient s'en servir, lorsqu'un ordre du Ministère Princier de la guerre vint arrêter ce procédé. On a même dans certains endroits armé les forts restés intacts, de pièces d'artillerie d'un gros calibre, comme par exemple à Roustchouk.

Ce qui concerne la forteresse de Widdin, qui compte outre la citadelle six forts détachés et la redoute de Vénitaké, les Russes ont commencé la démolition de quelques-uns de ces forts. Ces travaux étaient continués plus tard et quatre têtes de pont ainsi qu'une des portes et quelques autres ouvrages furent détruits, mais la citadelle avec tous ses accessoires est encore en bon état. Il en est de même du fort principal de Roustchouk, nommé Levend-Tabia. A Choumla on n'a rasé que le fort avancé dit "de l'Etoile" et un autre petit ouvrage avoisinant. A Silistrie on n'a pas même commencé les travaux de démolition—notamment le fort Médjidié Tabiassi pareil être en bon état—tandis qu'à Varna ces travaux sont restés inachevés, de manière que non-seulement le pentagone qui forme le fort principal, mais également les batteries qui entourent la ville et les fortifications qui couronnent les hauteurs environnantes, pourraient facilement être rendues propres à la défense.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Russian Subsidies for the Principality of Bulgaria since the beginning of 1880.

[From the information got from Consuls.]

Date.	Men.			Material of War.					Ships.	Remarks.
	Officers.	Under-Officers.	Soldiers.	Artillery.	Guns.	Ammunition.	Horses.	Various.		
1880.										
January ..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Monitor "Pravin," 2 transport and 6 torpedo steamships, corvette [?] "Golubzik." (Were sold in succession.)	Estimate of the Turkish Danube Commissioners in the reports from Constantinople from the 23rd January, No. 7, E.
January ..	..	..	..	..	..	40,000,000 cartridges	..	100,000 metres of cloth 30,000 metres of rope		
March ..	..	150	..	2 Field-batteries ..	.	..	..	..	..	Edhem Pasha estimated 250 officers and "hundreds of cannons [?]."
March ..	200	420[?]	..	1 battery, 9 horses	20,000 Berdan with ammunition		..	..	..	
May ..	..	180	..	..	..		ca. 1,000	Great quantity of regimental matters, saddles, &c.	..	
June ..	35	42	..	..	40,000 Chassepots, 80,000 [?] Berdan with ammunition		..	400 tons of coal.	..	N.B.—The Consulate-General at Rustchuk gives the following figures (from 22nd March to 3rd July, 1880):—50 officers, 520 sub-officers, 2 batteries, 40,000 guns with ammunition.
June ..	4	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
July	5	..	..	..	3,100 Berdan ..	..	..	..	..	
July	2	..	3 Cossacks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
August ..	1	..	..	..	..	2 steamers with ammunition	..	..	..	
August ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
August ..	1	..	2 Cossacks ..	..	..	7 trains with ammunition	..	200 carriages	..	
August ..	..	..	60	..	..	..	600	..	..	
August 9 ..	..	..	..	..	6,000 (Gerelure) 4,000 Carbines	..	..	..	..	
August 13 ..	..	..	250*	..	..	Ammunition [?]*	..	Carriages*	..	*With the steamer "Olga" from Sebastopol. Quantity not nearly given. (7 trains with "officers, men, and arms" from Ismail, according to news from Sulina, of the 10th August, 1880, No. 230, are not met with again.)
August ..	..	.	..	66**	2,000 Carbines**	8,000 large boxes of small arm ammunition for long range.	..	42 ammunition carts	..	**With train No. 135 [36?] of the firm of U. M. Negroponte, Galatz, and the steamers "Opir" and "Zwejew."
August 20 ..	14	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(5 trains with various material of war [?]).
August 22 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	N.B.—According to the estimates of the Consulate at Galatz the united import amounted from June 1880 to 50,000 to 60,000 guns, 8,000 to 9,000 boxes of ammunition, 8 batteries [?].

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 693. Confidential.)
Buda-Pesth, October 27, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Emperor spoke to me yesterday of the extreme satisfaction it had given him to learn the harmony and good feeling that had prevailed among the officers of the allied fleets while lying in the Austrian waters.

I said that I was glad to have the opportunity of repeating to him the recognition of the courtesy and cordiality which Admiral Seymour stated himself to have met with from the Imperial authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 9.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 1.)

E
(No. 336. Political.)
Cettinjé, October 25, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 331 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, the copies of a number of documents received by me from the Montenegrin Government, and which give a detailed account of the progress of the negotiations between the Turkish and Montenegrin Delegates with regard to the proposed Dulcigno Convention.

I have also the honour to furnish herein a copy of the letter received this morning by the Montenegrin Delegate from Bedri Bey, announcing a further change in the course which Riza Pasha intends following, and asking that the negotiations for the arrangements for carrying out the peaceful cession of Dulcigno may be transferred to Kunia, on the borders of the ceded district.

The Turkish authorities have so clearly shown their unwillingness or incapacity to execute the orders which the Porte has asserted have been sent to them, that it is almost impossible to express a hope that a successful issue may be expected from the steps which they now announce as having commenced.

The Montenegrin Government has, on the contrary, as far as prudence and the safety of its troops would permit, endeavoured to meet the wishes of the Powers, and not raise unnecessary difficulties in the way of the Porte; and my colleagues and I feel that we could not have required of the Prince any other concessions than those he has allowed his Delegate to make, both at Rieka and Vir Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Draft Convention presented by Bedri Bey to M. Matanovich at Vir Bazar October 22, 1880.

LE Délégué a tout d'abord déclaré qu'il s'agissait toujours pour eux de cession pacifique, et nullement de remise.

Suit le Projet :—

[For rest of Convention, see Part LIV, Inclosure 5 in No. 574.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le 22 *Octobre*, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

J'AI eu l'honneur de vous communiquer aujourd'hui le nouveau Projet de Convention proposé par le Délégué Ottoman.

Je m'empresse de le faire suivre des instructions que nous avons données à notre Délégué.*

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le 24 *Octobre*, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer, ci-joint, copies de deux notes échangées entre les Délégués Turc et Monténégrin réunis à Vir Bazar.†

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 9.

Bedri Bey to M. Matanovich.

Scutari, le 24 *Octobre*, 1880.

J'AI présenté à son Excellence le Commandant-en-chef de la Division Militaire de Scutari mes deux projets du 22 et 23 de ce mois, ainsi que les réponses que vous avez bien voulu me donner à ce sujet. Le Commandant-en-chef me charge à vous déclarer qu'ayant commencé l'adoption des mesures nécessaires pour la cession de la ville et du district de Dulcigno par les moyens pacifiques, il lui est impossible de procéder à l'élaboration des détails techniques avant le 28 de ce mois. En exécution, donc, aux ordres reçus, je vous prie de vouloir bien prendre les dispositions nécessaires à ce que le Délégué qui sera désigné par le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Monténégrine se trouve au même jour à Kounia.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) BEDRI.

No. 10.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 191).
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, November 1, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE will answer about the steps to be taken at Constantinople on the finance question as soon as he has ascertained Baron Calice's opinion upon it; but he would like to know the scope which it is proposed to give to the Commission.

He does not think that the Turkish Government will readily consent to form such a Commission now, as they rejected the proposal at the Congress of Berlin, [group omitted; ? nor] does he consider them under the obligation to do so.

No. 11.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, November 1, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 872, Baron Jomini has no doubt Russian Ambassador will be authorized to concert with Mr. Goschen and his other colleagues as to best way of raising finance question after settling of question of Dulcigno. He will telegraph your Lordship's wishes to Livadia.

Baron Jomini thinks the arrangement in Protocol No. 18 ought to be adhered to.

---

* See Part LIV, Inclosure 6 in No. 574.
† See Part LIV, Inclosures 7 and 8 in No. 574.

No. 12.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 216. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, November 1, 1880.

IF Greeks commence hostilities, Baron Jomini fears both the Montenegrins and Bulgarians will also attack Turkey, in spite of all Russia can do to prevent them.

No. 13.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

E
(No. 355. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, October 22, 1880.

My Lord,

IN accordance with instructions received from Mr. Goschen, I last week carried out the suggestion contained in Colonel Wilson's despatch No. 4 to his Excellency, and visited Slivno, where I was very hospitably entertained.

A very large part of the town is still in ruins, and although a plan has been prepared, no actual steps have as yet been taken, for its reconstruction.

With the exception of the Bishop, who was absent, I conversed, during my visit, with all the principal Bulgarians of the place, and more especially with the Prefect, Judge, and Mayor, with whose intelligence and apparent moderation I was very favourably impressed.

So far as I was able to ascertain, these gentlemen recognize the liberal character of the Organic Statute, and are unwilling to compromise the prospects of the province by any untimely move for a union. The Mayor expressed particular regret that the exaggerated reports which had appeared in the foreign newspapers respecting the Union movement and their town, had not been more energetically contradicted by the Bulgarian press. Referring to the Slivno meeting in June last, the Prefect, Dr. Stambolski, briefly described the object for which it had been called as follows:—

The change of Government in England having just taken place, the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia thought it desirable to decide upon some plan of action, in view of a crisis occurring in the East.

The defence of the southern frontier of the province was the subject principally discussed, and the funds collected, he declared, had been destined for that purpose only.

I asked Dr. Stambolski the reason of the presence of two delegates from the principality. He replied that he himself had been greatly opposed at the time to their taking part in the meeting, and had pointed out the false impression which would in consequence be produced. They had come to the meeting on account of the importance which the principality attached to the defence of Eastern Roumelia, and of the general interest the Bulgarians of the north took in the welfare of the province. Dr. Stambolski spoke seemingly very frankly, and his explanation would have appeared reasonable, had it more satisfactorily accounted for the presence of the two delegates from Sophia.

I was particularly struck during my visit by the political view taken of the Union question by those with whom I conversed.

The arguments I heard expressed were generally these: "We wish for union, but not at too great a cost. We are already in enjoyment of full liberties, have need of experience in government, and are beginning to understand that we would gain very little at present by such a change. Why, then, should we contribute to pay the debts of the principality, and why should we bear the brunt of another struggle, and expose our country and property to devastation, when we feel sure that the union must sooner or later take place of itself."

I held, in reply, the language which I have previously used in conversation with other Bulgarians, earnestly representing the importance, in their own interests, of loyally and impartially carrying out the provisions of the Statute, and of putting a stop to the agitation alleged to be going on in Eastern Roumelia, which was so perniciously impeding the development of the industrial and agricultural resources of the province.

Referring to the agitation, several of them admitted frankly that there were individuals who held extravagant views, but that they were now few in number, and their influence was waning. The appointment of Mr. Boeff as Russian Agent at Slivno was

afterwards alluded to, and I gathered from what was said that, although flattered at the attention thus paid to their town, the inhabitants were somewhat at a loss to understand the local Russian commercial interests, alleged by Prince Tzeretelew to be the motive for the appointment. I regret to say I was unable to obtain any positive information relative to the reported stores of arms. Being unwilling that it should be thought that there was any hidden object in my visit, I abstained from asking any direct questions. I have, however, good reason to believe, from information I have received here, that there is a large supply of rifles and ammunition stored in that town. There appears, moreover, to be little doubt that the archives of the so-called Secret Societies are kept there, and that Slivno is not unfrequently visited by Panslavist agitators.

Altogether, the impression produced upon me by my visit was that union with the Principality would be popular at Slivno, as elsewhere in Eastern Roumelia, if it were brought about without bloodshed, and on terms favourable to the interests of the province; but that the inhabitants were aware to the dangers of precipitate action, and disinclined to risk what they have got for advantages which they at present consider problematical.

In conclusion, I would beg to submit to your Lordship the opinion that there are already distinct signs that the clamour for union is abating in Eastern Roumelia, and that the general tone of thought is gradually becoming healthier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 14.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

E
(No. 96. Confidential.)

Belgrade, October 23, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH respect to my despatch No. 95 of this day's date, reporting the resignation of M. Ristitch's Ministry, I wish to state confidentially, for your Lordship's information, certain facts which tend to throw considerable light on the serious state of affairs in this principality.

The present crisis had long been foreseen, and has repeatedly formed the subject of conversation between M. Ristitch and myself. His Excellency, who has acted consistently throughout, has invariably agreed with me as to the vital importance to Servia of cultivating the best possible relations with Austria-Hungary, and he has therefore lost no opportunity of endeavouring to conciliate the Imperial Government, both during the recent struggle in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and subsequently by his attitude towards Russia.

His Excellency is, however, under the impression that from what he believes to be a mistaken view of the intentions of the Great Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, Austria-Hungary has come to consider Servia as a dependency of the Empire in all that relates to its commerce, navigation, and railways; in other words, that she is justified in turning the principality to her exclusive advantage, without having to incur the political responsibility of administering it or the expense of occupying it militarily. He holds that the position which would thus be created for independent Servia would prove far worse than the one from which she has just escaped at the cost of two ruinous and sanguinary wars, when she was nominally but a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire under the collective guarantee of the Powers. He has accordingly made up his mind to resist any such designs on the part of Austria-Hungary and resign office rather than yield.

As regards the present demand of Austria-Hungary, his contention is that it is totally inadmissible, because she already, to all intents and purposes, enjoys the most-favoured-nation treatment, since the scale of duties she has to pay is far below the one fixed upon in the Conventional Tariff annexed to the Anglo-Servian Treaty, because the fact of according Austria-Hungary the privileged position she claims for herself would involve an infraction of existing Treaties with other Powers, securing to them the advantages of the most-favoured-nation clause, because such a concession would be tantamount to a tacit admission on the part of Servia that, notwithstanding the recognition by the Powers of her status as an independent State, she has not acquired the right of making Treaties, but is still governed by anterior Treaties concluded by the former Suzerain Power; whereas she is only bound to maintain provisionally towards each separate foreign country the *status quo* as it existed at the date of the Treaty of Berlin,

pending the conclusion of fresh arrangements with them, and, finally, because the more Servia weakens her position by concessions previous to entering into negotiations, the less Austria-Hungary will be disposed to show consideration for the commercial and fiscal interests of Servia.

In the event of M. Ristitch being called upon to resume office, he will probably return to the Imperial Government a negative answer, though couched in the mildest terms possible, pleading the impossibility of acquiescing in the demands addressed to his Government; but warning, at the same time, Austria-Hungary that Servia will be compelled, to her great regret, to have recourse to retaliatory measures in self-defence, and to appeal to the good offices of the other co-Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Milan, who granted me the honour of an audience on his return from abroad, a little more than a month ago, believes that the Imperial Government have made out a strong case in their favour, and that, however exacting their conduct may appear, there is no alternative left for Servia but to submit, as she is scarcely in a position to resist the pressure that Austria-Hungary can bring to bear on her slender resources by stopping her export trade. He likewise considers the demand put forward by the Imperial Government is of little or no real importance, seeing that it claims the recognition in principle of a right it already possesses in practice. Being conscious of the gravity of the situation, owing to the Prince's personal unpopularity, M. Ristitch's preponderating influence in and out of the Skuptshina, and the excited state of public opinion on this point throughout the Principality, I ventured to suggest to His Highness that it might be more prudent for him, as a Constitutional Sovereign, to leave the solution of the question in the hands of his responsible advisers, as it seemed doubtful whether a new Administration could be formed of men sharing his views, and able to carry them out under present circumstances.

His Highness replied that he had not yet made up his mind as to the course he would pursue, that he was fully alive to the difficulties with which he was beset, and that he had taken care not to come under any binding engagements towards the Vienna Cabinet. The general opinion, however, amongst the population is, that His Highness has secretly entered into some kind of agreement, and that he is endeavouring to give it effect by the assertion of his personal authority in opposition to their national interests, and for the gratification of his own private objects. This is not the least likely; but the Prince has, unfortunately, shown so much animus against his late Prime Minister, who, through his forced resignation, has been allowed to become the popular hero of the day, that the latter's own words to me may possibly be realized as to the present not being an ordinary Ministerial crisis, but a political crisis of the greatest gravity, which may have very serious consequences, both in regard to internal as well as the external position of Servia.

The coercive measures contemplated by the Imperial Government towards this country are not likely to prove effectual at first, for almost the whole of this year's produce has already been exported, and moreover, the navigation of the Danube will shortly be closed. The annual value of Austro-Hungarian imports into this Principality is roughly estimated at 15,800,000 florins (about 1,400,000*l.*), and the stoppage of this trade would be severely felt in some of the manufacturing centres of the Empire.

It is therefore to be hoped the impending fiscal struggle may be yet avoided for the sake of Servia and Austria-Hungary, as its consequences would seriously affect the prosperity of both countries, and drive trade into new channels to the advantage of other commercial States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 15.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 500.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Report, drawn up by Mr. Vincent, recording what he observed and heard during his late journey through Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia in connection with the Unionist movement, and with other questions which are rather political than military. I had requested Mr. Vincent to report separately on this class of subjects.

Mr. Vincent appears to have made an excellent use of his time during his short stay in the Principality, and I am sure your Lordship will concur with me in thinking that his Report is of considerable value and does him great credit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Lieutenant Vincent to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, October 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the following Report upon matters which came under my observation during my recent journey through Bulgaria:—

State of Security.—A great improvement has taken place during the last few months in the security and tranquillity of the country. Throughout the spring and early summer of this year, brigandage was prevalent throughout the Schumla district and along the eastern portion of the Roumelian frontier. Prompt measures were, however, taken; General Ehrnrooth, the Minister of War, was sent to assume the Governorship of the district, and was given full powers over both the civil administration and the troops. On his arrival he declared the disturbed country to be under military law, and announced that all offences would be tried by military Tribunals and dealt with most severely. He further distributed arms to the villagers, both Bulgarian and Turkish, and rendered each village responsible for the preservation of order within its own boundaries. The measure of giving arms to the Moslems was at first opposed by the Bulgarians, but General Ehrnrooth insisted upon its being carried out, and to this may, to a great extent, be attributed the complete success of his efforts to restore tranquillity. While forbidden by law to possess arms of any kind, the Moslems were at the mercy of the brigands, who could extort supplies and enforce secrecy, but immediately the former were given the means of protection, brigandage diminished rapidly, the villagers capturing unassisted many of the bands. Finally, a judicious offer of pardon to those who gave themselves up was accepted by a large number, and security completely re-established. I travelled through all the Schumla district, which was four months ago the most disturbed, but neither heard of any recent acts of brigandage nor perceived signs of apprehension on the part of the inhabitants. The only district in the Principality where there appeared to be any fear was that south of Eshi-Stamboul, on the East Roumelian frontier, and on the Macedonian frontier, in a strip of land not yet definitely given to either Turkey or Bulgaria. Being protected by neither, the unfortunate inhabitants are pillaged from both sides. The brigands have, indeed, lately extended their incursions within the Bulgarian frontier, but not more than 8 or 10 miles, lest their retreat should be cut off by the gendarmerie.

Civil Administration.—In bringing together an Administrative Staff the Bulgarian Government have had great difficulties to contend against. Almost all the officials were without previous experience in administration, most of those who have done well having been schoolmasters before the war. It must be admitted that the successive Ministries which have been in power have acted as if they desired to render this evil of inexperience permanent. Each one on coming into office has made a sweeping change of *personnel* in every branch of the Administration, and, not content with this, has continued to dismiss and appoint with such energy, during its tenure of power, that it would now be difficult to find a Prefect, Sub-Prefect, or other important official who has held his present post for six months.

The country has naturally suffered, and many Bulgarians attribute to a great extent the more rapid progress of Eastern Roumelia to the disadvantages brought upon the Principality by this display of narrow party-feeling.

Tithes.—With regard to one very important branch of the Administration, the collection of the tithe, a serious charge has been brought against the present Ministry. They have been accused of attempting to conceal, and even to diminish, the actual amount of the revenue this year, in order that the portion to be allotted to Bulgaria of the Turkish debt, and the amount of the Principality's yearly tribute to the Porte, which are to be settled on the basis of this year's revenue, may not be fixed at too high a figure. Whether this charge be true or not, it is beyond dispute that a large portion of this year's wheat crop has been lost, through being allowed to lie on the ground waiting for the tithe-collector, until rain came and destroyed it. In every part of Bulgaria I heard the greatest indignation expressed at the manner in which the peasants had been

treated by the tithe-collectors, the system was worse, the cultivators said, than in the time of the Turks. The whole weight of the agricultural interest will be opposed to the present Ministry during the coming Session, their anger being principally directed against M. Karavalhoff, the Minister of Finance, whose personal motives are not free from suspicion.

Education.—Perhaps the most satisfactory sign in Bulgaria is the zeal for education which now animates the whole people. In every village a school has been established, and although attendance is not compulsory, there are but few absentees. Peasants, who four years ago would have been content that their sons should succeed them as simple agriculturists, and who then regarded reading as a great accomplishment, now discuss the respective merits of the different schools of Russia and Bulgaria as places of training for future Prefects and Judges. It is a mistake to suppose that the schools which have been established in Bulgaria are limited to primary education; at Tirnova, Sophia, Rustchuk, and other centres, secondary schools are in full work, while at Dubnitza, on the Macedonian frontier, Zoribrod, on the Servian frontier, and Tirnova, normal colleges have been founded for the preparation of teachers. Each of these latter contains over fifty pupils. I visited the one at Dubnitza, and was much struck by the excellent arrangements. The boys, who ranged from 10 to 18, were cleanly dressed and cleanly lodged. The course of instruction includes arithmetic, geography, history, Bulgarian and Russian. The majority of the pupils came from Macedonia, whither they will, I presume, return to found Bulgarian schools, as soon as they attain a sufficient age.

Bulgarian Clergy.—One of the most remarkable effects of the establishment of Bulgaria as a semi-independent province has been a great diminution of the influence of the Bulgarian clergy. Before the war, the village priests were both the spiritual and political heads of their congregations, while the duties of the higher clergy were far more political than clerical, and they were selected rather for skill in intrigue than for piety of life. Since the Treaty of Berlin this has been entirely changed. The peasant regards a member of the Administration as his political head. The priest has sunk from the first place in the village to a far lower position, while the Bishops are no longer even consulted with regard to matters outside the narrowest limits of their ecclesiastical authority. Their pay has also been considerably reduced, M. Zancoff being of opinion that their displeasure is no longer to be feared. The clergy naturally consider themselves the greatest sufferers by this change, but it is probable that it will prove to have been of immense service to them. The loss of their political power will assuredly operate very advantageously in raising the moral and spiritual tone of the Bulgarian priesthood.

Condition of the Moslems.—Throughout the eastern districts of Bulgaria, where the Moslems are most numerous, they all speak of a great improvement having taken place in their condition during the last four months.

In the villages which contain a mixed population they seem to be on friendly terms with the Bulgarians and to be settling down to their work unmolested, but in those districts where the Moslems and Bulgarians live in separate villages the state of affairs is less satisfactory. In many cases a traditional feud exists between two villages, and the Bulgarians, being now able to act without fear of retaliation, are not slow to pay off old scores.

The district where the Moslems appeared to be the most discontented and to have the greatest cause for discontent was that of Tirnova. Their great fear seems to be that they will be compelled to serve in the Bulgarian army. Their objections are numerous. They have religious scruples about wearing the cross on their caps; many of them do not know Bulgarian; but the difficulty which seemed to cause the greatest alarm was that of their food. "How can we," they said, "eat from the same food as the Bulgarians, who regard it almost as a religious duty to eat pig's flesh at a certain season of the year?"

If it was arranged that rations should be served out to them separately, or that money, in lieu of rations, should be given them—which, upon the whole, seems the best plan—their greatest objection to military service would have been overcome. The Bulgarian Government is not free from blame in this matter. I was informed by several officers of high standing that some such arrangements as those above mentioned had been made. If this be the case, why have the Moslems not been informed of it? They are now leaving the country every day through fear of a grievance which, by the testimony of these officers, the Bulgarian Government has long since decided to remove.

The conduct of the Ministers is at least open to the construction that they are indifferent to the Moslems being driven out of the Principality.

With regard to the actual number of those now emigrating, as compared with that of those returning to the Principality, it is difficult to form an accurate estimate. The richer

proprietors have already sold their lands and quitted the country, while a certain number of the poorer are now leaving every week by the Danube and Varna. On the other hand, I met with a considerable number of refugees returning from Macedonia to the Valley of the Danube, and was informed that from twenty to thirty families passed Kustendil every day on their road northwards. The condition of the refugees I saw was pitiable. Their clothes were torn, their women in rags, and their children almost naked, while the few pairs of oxen which they had were lean and poor. They had been, they said, in the neighbourhood of Uskub since the war, but could find neither land nor work; the Government had now ceased to make them an allowance, and they were absolutely without means of livelihood. They had lately sent one of their number forward to inspect their lands near Plevna, and were now returning there to work. They declared that they had no intention of selling their lands and leaving the country. The general impression, however, both among Bulgarians and foreigners resident in Bulgaria, seems to be that in a few years every Moslem will have left the Principality.

Union of Eastern Roumelia with Bulgaria.—In considering the question of the union it should at once be stated that, whatever the true interests of the countries concerned may be, a very strong desire for it is common to all classes in Bulgaria, though for somewhat different reasons. Among the peasantry, agitators have succeeded in spreading a vague idea that when the "Autonomy," as Eastern Roumelia is invariably named, has been joined to the Principality, taxes will be lighter, harvests better, and Ministers more sensible. The peasant knows that Eastern Roumelia is a richer country, and that its people are more intelligent. One of the main reasons for which he desires the union is that the Ministerial class at Sophia, of whom he has but a poor opinion, may be replaced by more able men from Philippopoli. The Pan-Bulgarian theories have also been driven into him by agents of the Committees, and he now considers it a sacred duty to free his brethren.

In the trading class, the desire is perhaps less strong. The Bulgarian who has travelled a little, and has some experience outside his own village, is less inclined to believe the brilliant picture of the advantages to result from the union. He wishes for it, but mildly, and would grudge every "carbola" its realization cost him. He is moreover fully alive to the danger of a premature attempt, and to the immense amount of suffering which will probably be inflicted upon the people of Eastern Roumelia during the struggle.

In the official class, different motives come into force. The ordinary official thinks mainly of one consideration, viz., that the administrative class is better paid in Eastern Roumelia than in Bulgaria; he hopes, therefore, that on the union a revision will be made and the Eastern Roumelian standard adopted. A small number of those in the higher posts would not be unwilling to maintain the *status quo*, as they are aware that after the union the competition for well-paid appointments will be keener, and that they will have the more intelligent and better educated Eastern Roumelians for rivals. They are, however, afraid openly to express their opinion. In addition to the above class feelings there is a natural and, I think, honourable desire pervading the whole people to see their nation great and powerful. I should add that in my opinion the desire for union is decidedly stronger in Bulgaria than in East Roumelia.

Moment for the Attempt.—Many dates have been predicted for the attempt at union to take place. They have all been hitherto falsified by the event. The course which the Bulgarians will, I believe, pursue is that dictated by common sense. While Turkey is at peace, I doubt either Bulgaria or Eastern Roumelia making a move, unless urged on by foreign influence. The people fully realize the fact that they cannot resist the Turks. If 15,000 troops could be sent from Adrianople, Eastern Roumelia would be overrun directly the union was declared, and before assistance could be sent from Russia. The most terrible massacres would ensue, and the whole country be devastated.

Should, however, Turkey become engaged in war, the desire for action will probably be too strong to resist. The initiative will in all probability be taken by the Bulgarians of the Principality, who have less to lose in the struggle.

At the recent meeting at Slivno where the questions of the Union and Macedonia were discussed, the Bulgarian delegates were greatly disappointed. They went expecting to find enthusiasm, prayers for help, and ardour for an immediate attempt, but were met with the very sensible proposition that it might be wiser to wait until the Porte was occupied elsewhere, and there were somewhat fewer Turkish troops at Adrianople. "It is vain and foolish to fix a date," the Eastern Roumelians said, "we must wait for our opportunity. In the meantime, let us prepare, so that when it comes we may be ready to strike."

Preparations.—During the summer, troops were concentrated, first at Sophia, and

subsequently at Schumla. Alarm was expressed lest these concentrations should be the prelude to war, but the greater part of the troops have now been dispersed, after being reviewed by the Prince. The artillery alone remain concentrated, five and a-half batteries being stationed at Kabioueh, near Schumla. In the present state of her military organization I doubt whether Bulgaria could concentrate more than 10,000 troops on any point within three weeks, and the movements of even this force would be greatly hampered by want of transport. The regular troops would, however, be assisted by bands of volunteers, formed on the same system as the Gymnastic Societies of Eastern Roumelia.

As I had the honour to inform your Excellency in a previous despatch (of the 16th October, 1880), every peasant has a rifle, and in every village there is a small armoury. It is true that the gymnastic movement has never been very enthusiastically taken up in Bulgaria, but in most villages the peasants have some knowledge of drill, and in many districts are regularly exercised every Sunday, so that the assistance these irregular bands might afford must not be entirely left out of the calculation, although I am not inclined to rate it very highly.

Secret Societies.—In several towns of Bulgaria, Societies more or less secret in their character have been formed, to promote the realization of Pan-Bulgarian schemes. Similar Societies have likewise been established in Macedonia, with correspondents and agents in the Principality. The head-quarters of these Societies are in the Perim-Dagh, where most of the agitators took refuge after the last Macedonian rising. The amount of harm that they have done is immense. The peasants are prevented from settling down to their work by agitators, who hold out to them golden prospects if they will join in the propaganda, and who promise the return of all money subscribed, with interest, from the proceeds of confiscated Turkish lands, when their schemes have been realized. It is satisfactory to be able to record that the prosperity of these Societies is on the decline; their agents are now received coldly in the villages of the Principality, and subscriptions are beginning to fail, as the Bulgarian peasant is far too careful of his money to part with it willingly when the return is so uncertain.

Macedonia.—Any attempt to effect the union must necessarily be accompanied by an endeavour to annex a large portion of Macedonia. Its success will, in a great measure, depend upon the disposition and behaviour of the Bulgarian inhabitants there. If they are lukewarm in the endeavour, it has no chance, but if, on the other hand, they are determined to throw off the Turkish rule, and are prepared to make great sacrifices, it will take a very large force to put down so numerous a population. At present the propaganda is being mainly worked by the priests and monks, Dubnitza and Rilo being the centres of the movement. With the co-operation of the secret Societies and their agents, they have succeeded thoroughly in rousing the Bulgarians in Macedonia from their previous indifference to the cause. With regard to the question of arms, I doubt whether many are now being imported into Macedonia, although there can be no question that a large number have previously found their way there, and are now in the hands of the Bulgarians, concealed, of course, from the Turkish authorities. In connection with this subject, I may mention that Austria is also working an active propaganda in Macedonia, and has succeeded in thoroughly alarming the Bulgarians. Their feelings towards her are those of intense hatred, mingled with fear lest she should cut them off from the Ægean Sea.

Greece they have almost ceased to regard as a rival for the possession of Macedonia, considering that her claims to all but the seaboard and extreme south have been acknowledged false.

The one power which the Bulgarians look to for assistance against Austria is Russia. It is, perhaps, less a feeling of gratitude or of sympathy than of interest which still binds them so closely to the great Muscovite Empire. They believe that in the future they must look to Russian assistance if they are to obtain Macedonia, and the price of it is docility to her commands in the present. There is in the country a strong feeling against foreign influence and interference, whether Russian or not, but until the Bulgarians are sure of other support they cannot afford to cast off the only Power which has hitherto assisted them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDGAR VINCENT, *Coldstream Guards.*

No. 16.

E (No. 512.) *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.*—(*Received November 2.*)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1880.*

TO-DAY or to-morrow is the day on which, according to the assurances positively given last Friday to myself and others, the surrender of Dulcigno should at last have been an accomplished fact. The telegrams received yesterday and this morning from Cettinjé tell, however, of fresh delays, and of the "resumption" of negotiations on the 28th instant, that is to say, after the date on which Dulcigno ought to have been delivered.

His Excellency the Foreign Minister gave most distinct assurances to Sir A. Sandison yesterday that the Ottoman authorities were most loyally carrying out their engagements, and that he believed all the difficulties were removed. According to my instructions Sir A. Sandison communicated to him the telegrams of the 23rd from Mr. Green, in which the serious differences still existing between the Turkish and Montenegrin negotiators were described.

His Excellency saw in Mr. Green's information only cause for complaint that the foreign Agents at Cettinjé were unfair in reporting the slightest question or difficulty without waiting for the final issue, "which generally proved satisfactory."

I inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the memoranda given me by Sir A. Sandison of the declarations made by Assim Pasha on Saturday and Monday respectively. I have, on each occasion, reported the main substance by telegraph.

Your Lordship will observe that, whereas I had been categorically assured that after the scene alleged to have taken place at the Palace on Wednesday night orders of the most positive description had been sent to Riza Pasha to deliver up Dulcigno within a few days, the Foreign Minister stated on Saturday that some discretion must be left to Riza Pasha, who was best able to judge.

A description of the innumerable phases through which the question of the cession of Dulcigno has passed, even since we were informed that His Imperial Majesty had quite made up his mind to the sacrifice, is of comparatively little present or historical interest, and I have refrained from writing your Lordship long despatches about the constant changes of front which have taken place, because in most cases long before my despatch could reach the Foreign Office your Lordship would be in receipt of telegrams from me of a later date, announcing a complete change of the situation which I had reported a week before. The main course of events may, however, be summarized as follows:—

After the change of Ministry had taken place, the Sultan declared that the dismissal of his former Ministers was due to their being unable to settle the pending difficulties. At an audience which took place on the 19th September His Majesty informed me that he had just sent an Aide-de-camp to Scutari to pacify the Albanians. Two days later, however, the new Ministry launched the Circular telegram to their Representatives abroad, dated the 16th September, in which a far more aggressive tone was taken up than at any previous stage of the negotiations, and the surrender of Dulcigno made dependent on impossible conditions, and especially on a promise that no naval demonstration should take place.

The Porte issued this telegram at a moment when they had already in their hands a note from the Ambassadors stating the impossibility of the main condition put forward by the Porte being accepted, namely, the recognition of the *status quo* on the line of frontier north of the Lake of Scutari.

The telegram may possibly have been settled by the Council of Ministers before the note of the Ambassadors was in the hands of the Porte, but the telegram was not dispatched till the day afterwards.

On the 22nd September the Porte answered the note in question. The reply was still more aggressive than the telegram, and put forward a fresh demand, viz., that the naval demonstration should be abandoned, not only for the present, but for the future.

This demand, as well as the condition that the line of frontier to the north of the Lake of Scutari should be determined by the *status quo*, was rejected by the Ambassadors in their note of the 26th September.

The German Ambassador had had a three hours' interview with the Sultan on the 21st, but His Majesty showed no symptoms of yielding. The Sultan sent a telegram to the Emperor of Germany asking his assistance. Your Lordship knows that the reply

received offered no hope to the Sultan that he would obtain any support from Germany in his resistance to the pressure of the Powers.

The uncompromising note from the Ambassadors of the 26th September made a profound impression at the Porte and, apparently, on His Majesty. Efforts were made to induce the Ambassadors to take back the note, but this demand was met by an immediate refusal.

The moment then came when it appeared that the Sultan and his advisers had yielded. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Artin Effendi, made a declaration to Count Hatzfeldt, as the Doyen, on the 28th September, which declaration he stated that he made by the authority of the Sultan. It was to this effect:—

"The Sultan, desiring to give a signal proof of his determination to execute at once the engagements devolving on the Porte from the Treaty of Berlin, has decided to settle definitely the questions connected with it by Sunday, the 3rd October, at latest. His Majesty hopes that the settlement of these questions, a settlement which will be communicated to the Powers within the above term, will be of a character to satisfy them."

Much interest was naturally aroused by this announcement, and many speculations ensued as to the signal proof which His Majesty would give of his determination to execute at once the engagements resulting to him from the Treaty of Berlin. In the interval between the 28th September and the 3rd October, on which day the promised proof was to be in our hands, difficulties were reported as to the advance of the Montenegrins to Dulcigno, as Riza Pasha declared that he would repel force by force, and the Montenegrins thus feared that they would be opposed by the Turkish regular troops.

A Havas telegram announced, on the 29th, that the naval demonstration was postponed for ten days. I telegraphed to your Lordship that this rumour would have a pernicious effect. On the morning of the 4th October the promised communication arrived. Your Lordship will sufficiently remember its character. It was a manifesto of defiance to Europe, not only on the Dulcigno question, but on almost every question pending between Turkey and the Powers. It was by this document that the Sultan claimed to fulfil his promise of giving a signal proof of his determination to execute his engagements.

This note was delivered to us on Monday, the 4th instant. On Friday the 8th instant (or on the following day) the news reached the Porte of the intended occupation of Smyrna by an allied fleet. I telegraphed on the same day to your Lordship that the telegrams received at the Porte from all the capitals were very unfavourable to the Ottoman Government. On Saturday, the 9th, the Foreign Minister went round to the Ambassadors on an errand of conciliation, and informed them that better news had been received from Albania and that the Government would cede Dulcigno immediately. We were promised a note by the next night, communicating this resolution. However, the note did not come on the next day nor on the day after that. It was delivered to us on Tuesday the 12th. Opinions differed as to whether it was satisfactory. Its language did not tally entirely with what had been used by the Foreign Minister on the 9th, and the change was attributed to the news which had become more or less public in the meantime that Austria, Germany, and France, would not join England in the proposed demonstration off Smyrna. The opening of the note recalled the promise as to the signal proof of the Sultan's determination on the 28th September. It began with the statement that "the Porte wished to give a new proof of its loyalty and good-will."

Some days elapsed without any progress being made, but in the end Bedri Bey was sent by Riza Pasha to negotiate with a Montenegrin Envoy as to the conditions of the Convention for the transfer of Dulcigno to the Montenegrins. It seems at length as if the surrender would actually take place and was really meant. The first condition, however, presented by Bedri Bey for the acceptance by the Montenegrins was that Montenegro should recognize the *statu quo* as the frontier north of the lake, that is to say, the first step taken in execution "of the new proof of the Porte's loyalty and good-will" was the repetition of a demand which had been throughout rejected by the Powers, and the abandonment of which condition was one of the main differences between the menacing note of the 3rd October and the conciliatory answer of the 12th. I need not dwell on other difficulties raised by the Turkish Delegate. I have telegraphed to your Lordship how, on receiving this news on the 18th instant, I at once saw the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister; how the former disclaimed all knowledge most categorically, and how the latter gave me the impression that he disclaimed it but in a far less positive manner.

I used very strong language to the Ministers about what I considered a glaring breach of an understanding.

On the following day, Tuesday, the 19th instant, the Prime Minister informed my First Dragoman that the obnoxious condition should be withdrawn. On the evening of the next day, as I have informed your Lordship, a scene is reported to have taken place in the Palace. It was apparently a struggle between the advocates of continued shuffling and resistance, and those who declared that further delay would absolutely imperil the Empire. The interesting point is that such a debate should have been necessary. It proves that the promise of the 11th October, the last declaration of a sincere intention to yield, was, after all, not being carried out, and that it was necessary to make a fresh declaration, and to issue fresh orders to Riza Pasha, to which the usual term "categorical" was applied. On this occasion the cession was to be made within five or six days. The term has, however, elapsed, and Dulcigno is not yet surrendered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Memorandum.

ASSIM PACHA m'a déclaré cette après-midi que des ordres catégoriques ont été donnés à Véli Riza Pacha, entre Mercredi et Jeudi passé (son Excellence ne pouvait pas me dire au juste), d'effectuer la "cession" de Dulcigno.

J'ai demandé à savoir dans quel délai? Son Excellence m'a répondu que ceci était laissé aux circonstances et à la discrétion de Véli Riza Pacha, qui était en mesure de savoir mieux que la Porte le temps qu'il fallait pour opérer cette cession.

J'ai aussi demandé si Véli Riza Pacha avait déjà répondu aux ordres de la Porte. Son Excellence m'a répondu négativement, en ajoutant que la Porte était dans l'attente de sa réponse.

Assim Pacha m'a dit aussi que les deux points qui avaient présenté des difficultés (questions du pavillon et du *statue quo*) ayant été écartés, la Convention à entrevenir entre la Turquie et le Monténégro était déjà chose arrêtée, les cinq autres points qui en faisaient l'objet ayant été acceptés de part et d'autre; et que Bédri Bey se rendait maintenant auprès du Délégué de Monténégro pour effectuer la cession de Dulcigno à la satisfaction générale (de "tout le monde").

J'ai prié son Excellence de m'expliquer ce que voulait dire cette dernière phrase, sur quoi elle me répondit qu'elle entendait par-là la cession de Dulcigno "à la satisfaction des Puissances, du Monténégro, et de la Porte."

(Signé) A. SANDISON.

Thérapia, le 23 Octobre, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Memorandum.

I SPOKE to Assim Pasha to-day in the sense directed by your Excellency respecting the delays and difficulties which continue to interfere with the immediate surrender of Dulcigno, in accordance with the Porte's repeated promises and assurances.

His Excellency at once replied that these difficulties were now at an end in presence of a telegram dated the 24th instant, received yesterday from Veli Riza Pasha, which states that having settled with the Delegate of Montenegro the points which form the subject of the Convention to be concluded between Turkey and Montenegro previous to the cession of Dulcigno, Bedri Bey had arrived at Scutari on Saturday night, and that he was under orders to start again yesterday at 12 o'clock A.M., for the purpose of rejoining his Montenegrin colleague and signing the Convention, which, by mutual agreement, reduces to eight days, after it is signed, the delay fixed for the cession of the town and district of Dulcigno.

Bearing in mind the principal serious objection urged by the Prince of Montenegro against marching his troops over the Mazura heights, which were held and fortified by the Albanians, I began by expressing some surprise at hearing that matters had been

brought to the stage he had just described. His Excellency stated, in reply, that such objection could no longer exist, since on Veli Pasha's recommendation, an additional Turkish military force had left Preveza on Friday last for the purpose, he justly presumed, of occupying the Mazura heights and such other positions as were held by the Albanians.

Perceiving, however, that Assim Pasha did not know, or perhaps affected not to know, the difficulties reported by Mr. Green up to the 23rd instant, I thought proper to give to him your Excellency's message respecting the impossibility of obtaining information from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of reading out to him at the same time the substance of Mr. Green's telegrams of the 22nd and 23rd instant.

His Excellency said that those particulars had not yet reached the Porte, in consequence of the thunder-storms, which frequently interfere with the working of the telegraph wires between Tirana and Scutari. He thought, however, that the Porte will receive them through the Minister of War, the moment the telegraphic service between the two places is resumed.

His Excellency took this opportunity of adding that the Minister of War had inquired yesterday by telegraph of Veli Riza Pasha whether Bedri had, as announced, left Scutari yesterday at noon, but that no reply had been received for the above reason.

As I was taking my departure Assim Pasha requested me to give your Excellency every assurance that the Porte being sincerely desirous of ceding Dulcigno, was acting in perfect good faith. Under the circumstances he seemed to think it rather unfair that the foreign Consular Agents should immediately report the slightest question or difficulty connected with the negotiations without waiting for the final issue, which in most instances proves satisfactory, as has already been the case in reference to the questions raised about the flag and the frontier *status quo*, both of which were set aside.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, October 25, 1880.

No. 17.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

E
(No. 146.)

Bucharest, October 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM assured that the Prince of Bulgaria repeated to Prince Charles during their interview the assurances he has so frequently restated of late, and which have been reported to your Lordship by Mr. Lascelles.

His Highness said that he had done much to prevail on his people to be patient, and not to disturb by any act of theirs the arrangements made at the Berlin Congress, and that he was quite positive that nothing would be done to disturb the peace by the Bulgarians, unless a collision on account of the Hellenic frontier should afford them an opportunity, in which case, if the popular feeling in Bulgaria became too strong, he might not be able to resist its force.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 18.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

E
(No. 697.)

Buda-Pesth, October 28, 1880.

My Lord,

BEFORE the public sittings in the Delegations all the matters to be discussed in them are examined in Commissions which are nominally secret, reporters not being admitted to them.

As the members, however, make little difficulty of speaking of what takes place at these sittings, it is not difficult for those acquainted with them to learn all that passes with tolerable accuracy.

I have learnt from several members of different parties that at this morning's sitting Baron Haymerle was closely questioned as to his proceedings in reference to the Montenegrin frontier.

He is stated to have been very successful in his answer, going through the whole

transactions since the beginning of the discussions about Gusinjé and Plava, and satisfactorily justifying every step that had been taken.

He was next pressed to explain the scope of the naval demonstration, and to say when it would come to an end.

His answer was short, but very decided.

The demonstration, he said, had been undertaken to assist the Prince of Montenegro in taking possession of the territory to which he was entitled, and it would come to an end either if that object is attained or if the Montenegrins do not occupy the territory upon the withdrawal of the Turkish troops.

I am told that this declaration gave unmixed satisfaction to the Commission, and that the disapproval of any further exhibition of force has been perfectly unanimous.

A question was likewise asked about the progress of the demolition of the Bulgarian fortresses, to which the Minister answered that he regretted to have nothing satisfactory to say; that the Bulgarian Government pleaded their want of money, but he must admit that they seemed to have what they required when they wished to devote it to other objects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 19.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 701.)

Buda-Pesth, October 29, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. GOULD, in his despatch No. 96, which will reach your Lordship by the present messenger, explains the views and opinions of M. Ristich with regard to the Austro-Hungarian Government and to the question which has led to his resignation, upon which I have already commented in another despatch.

The Imperial Government certainly do not share Mr. Gould's opinion of a conciliatory disposition having been shown towards them by M. Ristich, and indeed, if he believes, as is stated by Her Majesty's Minister, that Austria-Hungary has come to consider Servia as a dependency of the Empire in all that concerns commerce, navigation, and railways, it is only natural that he should act towards this Government with jealousy and distrust, and without any of the confidence necessary for the maintenance of good relations between neighbouring States.

That the Austro-Hungarian Government will endeavour to drive a hard bargain with Servia in the commercial arrangements is most probable, but there is no ground whatever for supposing them to entertain such ideas of domination as are attributed to them by M. Ristich.

Whatever the strict rights of the particular question at issue may be, that they are not clearly on the side of Servia may be assumed from the fact that the Prince himself admits the justice of the Austrian claim, but M. Ristich hardly seems to apprehend that claim correctly when he says that conceding it would amount to a tacit admission on the part of Servia that she had not acquired with her independence the right of making Treaties.

Baron Haymerle, as I stated in my other despatch, distinctly recognizes that right to Servia, but he says that, till the new Treaties are made, the Principality is bound by those with the Suzerain Power.

M. Ristich says that Servia is only bound to maintain the *status quo* existing at the time of the Treaty of Berlin, while Baron Haymerle maintains that she is bound by the existing Treaties.

Considering the pass to which matters have now come, it will be difficult to avoid serious complications between the two countries unless the Prince accepts M. Ristich's resignation; and the course which appears to me the most prudent that he could adopt would be to name a Ministry which would officially withdraw the note of the 3rd/15th July, which M. Ristich had verbally declared he would allow to become a dead letter, but which still remains the stumbling-block, and if the Government could not maintain itself, and M. Ristich returned to power, he would find the way cleared for the commencement of formal negotiations.

The Austrian view of this question is warmly supported by the German Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 20.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1018.) *Paris, November* 1, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DE RADOWITZ, who, as your Lordship is aware, has represented Germany here, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, in the absence of Prince Hohenlohe, since April last, told me yesterday that he had just received orders from his Government to return immediately to his proper post at Athens; and that he should set out for that place in a day or two. Prince Bismarck was, he said, of opinion that, in the present critical state of the Greek frontier question, it was necessary to have at Athens a Representative who would impress with authority on the Greeks the advice to keep quiet, and would use all the influence of Germany to prevent their taking any rash step which might lead to dangerous complications.

On the other hand, the relations between France and Germany were, M. de Radowitz said, so good that there could be no inconvenience in leaving the Embassy here in the hands of a Chargé d'Affaires during the time, probably very short, which would elapse before the return of Prince Hohenlohe.

I understood from M. de Radowitz that about the end of the year he would himself in all probability go on from Athens to Constantinople to succeed Count Hatzfeldt as Ambassador to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 21.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1019. Confidential.) *Paris, November* 1, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the course of the conversation of which a report is made in my immediately preceding despatch No. 1018 of to-day, M. de Radowitz mentioned to me that, on hearing that he was about to leave Paris, M. Gambetta had written him a letter expressing the most friendly sentiments to himself personally and to the German Government, and expressing a wish to see him before he left.

This may be taken as a resumption of the coquetry between M. Gambetta and the German Embassy which was a little interrupted by the Cherbourg speech.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 22.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2, 1 P.M.)

(No. 30.) *Buosich, November* 2, 1880, 11:30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

NEWS has been received from Montenegrin sources that on Sunday last a band of Albanians drove away Montenegrin outpost near Gorica Topal, and took up a position three hours in advance of that place. This requires confirmation.

No. 23.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 40.) *Buosich, November* 2, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

DERVISH PASHA arrived yesterday at Medua, the port of Scutari, accompanied by a transport with troops. It is reported that Riza Pasha goes by sea to Turkey.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 349.) *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1880.

Sir,

IN the communication made to me by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, of which I inclose a copy,* your Excellency will perceive that complaint is made by the Turkish Government of a speech delivered by the Prince of Bulgaria on the 18th August at Varna, when His Highness is reported to have said that he looked upon the Macedonian provinces as forming part of his dominions.

This speech was brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government at the time, but it afterwards transpired on inquiry that the Prince had been incorrectly reported, His Highness' Secretary having assured Mr. Lascelles that His Highness had merely expressed his sympathy with the misfortunes of Macedonia, which he hoped Europe would find means to alleviate.

I think it advisable to point out this contradiction to your Excellency, in case allusion should be made to the matter by the Turkish Ministers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 937. Political.) *Cettinjé, October* 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to my despatch No. 933 of the 21st instant, an extract from a further most interesting and valuable Report received by me to-day from Mr. Summa at Scutari.

Although I know that there is hardly any one in North Albania better able to judge of the intentions and feelings of the natives than Mr. Summa, still I am sure he would bear out my opinion that if the Sultan would only direct his military and civil authorities there to carry out the surrender of Dulcigno, they could, by the isolation of the town and district, and by a few active measures against the principal leaders, who happen to be almost all functionaries of the Ottoman Administration, bring to an end a state of things created under the direct auspices of the Sultan and the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Mr. Summa to Mr. Kirby Green.

Scutari, le 23 Octobre, 1880.

(Extrait.)

JE vois qu'on vous a fait savoir que M. Lippich est de l'opinion que du côté de Dulcigno il n'y aura pas de résistance, et comme je ne partage nullement cette idée, ainsi je vous ai télégraphié aujourd'hui voie d'Antivari pour vous communiquer que selon moi je crois impossible que le Commandant Militaire puisse livrer Dulcigno sans effusion de sang, étant les habitants décidés plus que jamais à s'opposer par les armes à toute occupation de leur pays.

Quant à Riza Pacha, on voit qu'il tâche maintenant de résoudre à l'amiable la question; il conseille, mais sans aucune pression, la remise pacifique de Dulcigno, faisant des belles promesses aux habitants, dans le cas de remise paisible, mais je répète que les Dulcignotes et les Musulmans de Scutari sont décidés à la résistance, et surtout les habitants de Dulcigno sont tellement excités que, avant-hier, ils ont publiquement fusillé un émissaire de Riza Pacha, porteur de lettres, ont bien bâtonné un autre qui leur conseillait la remise de la ville, et un troisième, qui prêchait aussi la cession, n'a dû son salut qu'à une fuite précipitée.

Il résulte évidemment de tout ce qui précède, et j'en suis parfaitement convaincu que pour le moment le Gouvernement Impérial ne pourra pas réussir à une paisible solution de la question, et dans le cas de mesures énergiques, sans nul doute, il y aura une

* See Part LIV, No. 397.

effusion de sang, étant les habitants décidés à la résistance armée, même contre les troupes régulières.

Riza Pacha n'a pas envoyé de troupes à Touzi, ce qui rassure les Chrétiens et les montagnards, et ne laisse lieu à des soupçons sur ses intentions, qu'on disait hostiles à Touzi.

Chaque jour il y a ici des réunions du Comité de la Ligue, dont le but est la défense de Dulcigno.

Je dois aussi vous communiquer que dernièrement à Prisrend les voleurs ont attaqué pendant la nuit dans sa maison le sieur Baldo Tazaboulousi, Drogman du Consulat d'Autriche-Hongrie, mais il s'est défendu, et il a tué deux des assaillants, et blessés deux autres, mais enfin il a été aussi tué avec sa femme.

Ici, grâce à Dieu, jusqu'à présent l'ordre public n'est point troublé, et à moins d'une nouvelle attitude du Commandant Militaire, je suis fondé à croire que la tranquillité du pays ne sera pas menacé.

No. 26.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey. (*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, November 3.*)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 21 Octobre*, 1880.

POUR faire suite aux précédentes communications de mon Département, je vous transmets, ci-joint, copie de deux Rapports que notre agent commercial à Varna vient de m'adresser pour me signaler la situation intolérable faite aux malheureuses populations Musulmanes de la Bulgarie.

Je vous prie de vouloir bien attirer la sérieuse attention de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sur les faits mentionnés dans ces pièces.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Munir Effendi to Assim Pasha.

Varna, le 6 Octobre, 1880.

Excellence,

LES habitants Musulmans de Sarigneul, village composé de trente-six familles, ayant été chassés à coups de bâton par les Bulgares, sont venus me trouver dimanche, au nombre de trente, à l'Agence, et m'ont raconté les faits suivants :—

Il y a un an et demi que le Gouvernement Bulgare avait installé dans ce village soixante-quinze familles Bulgares venues de Kirk-Kilissé d'un des districts de la Roumélie Orientale. Ceux-ci s'étaient emparés des maisons et des terres des Musulmans qu'ils cultivaient jusqu'à ces derniers temps, lorsqu'il y a quinze jours la Commission chargée de réintégrer les Musulmans dans leurs propriétés et présidée par M. Stoïanoff, ex-Gouverneur de Varna, se rendit dans ce village et prit les mesures ci-après :

1. Les terres prises par les Bulgares et cultivées par eux devaient être rendues aux Musulmans après la récolte.

2. Les terres préparées pour la semence devaient être partagées entre les Bulgares et les Musulmans et revenir à ces derniers après la récolte.

3. Les Musulmans devaient donner à chaque famille Bulgare dix deunums de terre.

Dix jours après que la Commission eut quitté le village, le nommé Hassan, fils de Moustafa, fut assailli dans son champ et battu par quarante Bulgares. Poursuivi par ces derniers, il s'enfuit au village. Là il fut sauvé, grâce à l'intervention des Musulmans. Les Bulgares, ne voulant pas se soumettre à la décision de la Commission, et par conséquent refusant de restituer les terres à leurs anciens propriétaires, chassèrent les Musulmans à coups de bâton de leur village, en leur disant qu'ils ne reconnaissaient pas la décision d'un Gouvernement qui les expropriait en faveur des Musulmans. Les villageois Musulmans furent obligés d'abandonner leurs femmes et leur enfants à la merci des Bulgares et de se réfugier à Varna. Ils ont expédié au Ministère de l'Intérieur à Sophia une dépêche qui est restée sans réponse. Les Notables de Varna avaient prié le Préfet d'envoyer à la hâte des gendarmes à ce village pour protéger au moins la vie et l'honneur des femmes et des enfants de ces malheureux. Aucune mesure n'a été prise par lui à cet effet.

Enfin, aujourd'hui, ces mêmes paysans se sont rendus chéz le Président de la Commission qui, loin de prendre en considération leur légitime demande, sans même se donner la peine de les écouter, les a mis tranquillement à la porte, en leur disant qu'il n'était pas en son pouvoir de jeter sur le pavé ces malheureux émigrés Bulgares de la guerre; que d'ordre du Prince ils devaient cultiver les terres des Musulmans, et il leur enjoignit de s'en aller où bon leur semblera s'ils ne sont pas contents de leur situation présente.

De même dans les villages Adjemler, Derbend, Romlar, Kar-Gueul, Pacha-keui, et Vranja, les Bulgares refusent de restituer les terres à leurs anciens propriétaires Musulmans, qui attendent d'un jour à l'autre le même sort que celui des habitants de Sari-Gueul.

Il résulte des faits susmentionnés que la malheureuse population de la Bulgarie n'ayant ni soutien ni protecteur ne peut trouver justice nulle part; chassée par les autorités, battue, maltraitée, assassinée par les Bulgares, elle est réduite au plus sombre désespoir et à la plus affreuse misère. Les Consuls des Grandes Puissances qui assistent chaque jour à ces tristes drames n'ont aucun pouvoir pour intervenir en faveur des Musulmans. Tous leurs actes peuvent se réduire à en faire part à leurs Gouvernements. Ces malheureux ont pour seul protecteur Dieu, et pour unique consolation les larmes. Ma position ne me permet pas, Excellence, d'intervenir auprès de l'autorité pour alléger leurs souffrances. Aussi, ai-je l'honneur, M. le Ministre, de solliciter la bienveillante attention de votre Excellence sur la situation terrible de ces malheureux, qui ne cessent de tourner leurs regards vers Constantinople et qui espèrent toujours que la puissance de Sa Majesté le Sultan saura leur faire rendre justice.

Dans l'attente de recevoir de promptes instructions à ce sujet, j'ai, &c.

(Signé) MUNIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Munir Effendi to Assim Pasha.

Varna, le 9 Octobre, 1880.

Excellence,

LES élections municipales légalement faites et dans lesquelles les Musulmans et les Grecs avaient obtenu dix-neuf voix sur vingt et une, viennent d'être cassées par une dépêche du Ministre de l'Intérieur, qui ordonna au Préfet de Varna de faire des élections supplémentaires.

Les Musulmans et les Grecs, considérant cette seconde élection comme une violation de leurs droits politiques les plus sacrés, voulurent se contenter d'adresser une protestation au Gouvernement Central et de ne pas participer aux nouvelles élections. Ce qui, certes, ne leur aurait pas donné gain de cause. Le Consul de Grèce et moi, voyant bien le piège qu'on leur tendait, nous nous sommes mis en campagne pour les déterminer à prendre part aux nouvelles élections, tout en envoyant leur protestation à qui de droit. Après quatre réunions différentes, nous sommes parvenus à leur faire partager notre manière de voir.

Les élections étaient fixées au Dimanche, 3 Août, à 10 heures à la frauque. Les habitants Musulmans et Grecs, agissant en commun, se rendirent au Conak où devaient avoir lieu les élections à 9 heures et demie, mais déjà la grande salle et les escaliers étaient occupés par les Bulgares, qui empêchèrent les premiers d'y parvenir. Le bureau fut illégalement formé par les Bulgares, sans que les Turcs et les Grecs y participassent et en l'absence du Préfet qui, d'après la loi électorale devait, le présider.

La ville de Varna renferme onze quartiers Musulmans, quatre quartiers Grecs, et deux quartiers Bulgares et Arméniens mélangés de Turcs. Le bureau fut ouvert à 10 heures du matin, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de le dire plus haut à votre Excellence, et l'on déclara qu'il serait fermé à 3 heures après-midi.

On procéda à faire l'appel des quartiers Arméniens et Bulgares qui dura jusqu'à 2 heures après-midi, de sorte qu'on laissa seulement une demi-heure pour le vote des électeurs des onze quartiers Musulmans et quatre quartiers Grecs. On refusa même la liste de 150 Arméniens qui voulaient voter avec les Turcs. Les listes des deux quartiers Bulgares et Arméniens furent renouvelées six fois pour ne pas laisser du temps aux électeurs des deux autres communautés. En outre, on fit venir, contrairement à la loi, les Bulgares des environs pour les faire participer aux élections.

Les Musulmans et les Grecs ayant fait leurs protestations contre cette façon illégale de voter, le Préfet, tout en reconnaissant la légitimité de leurs protestations, leur promit de prolonger la durée des élections qui était de huit heures et non pas de cinq, comme elle a été fixée par le bureau. Mais, à 3 heures précises, tandis qu'un millier

d'électeurs Musulmans et Grecs, leurs bulletins à la main, protestaient dans la cour du Conak contre la fermeture du Bureau et réclamaient leur droit de vote, le bureau fut fermé par les Bulgares. Alors le Préfet monta sur un tabouret et leur adressa l'allocution suivante :—

"Messieurs, je vous déclare officiellement que la constitution du Bureau, placé sous ma présidence par la loi, est illégale, puisqu'elle est faite en mon absence ; je vous déclare en outre que vos droits électoraux sont violés et mon autorité est méconnue. Je vous invite, en conséquence, à protester contre cette violation flagrante de la loi et vous prie de vous retirer."

Dans les premières élections légalement faites et déclarées telles dans le procès-verbal dressé à cet effet par le Préfet, M. Startchef, ex-Maire de la ville, avait été réélu par les Musulmans et les Grecs Président du Conseil Municipal. Mais les Bulgares le menacèrent en lui faisant savoir que s'il persistait à accepter ce poste, les héros de Chipka (on désigne sous ce nom les Bulgares qui se sont battus dans la dernière guerre à Chipka et à côté des Russes contre les troupes Impériales et qui portent, comme marque distinctive, sur la poitrine, une médaille en bronze) ne manquaient pas dans la ville pour l'assassiner. Ce qui le détermina à donner sa démission.

Les Musulmans et les Grecs ont transmis deux dépêches au Prince et au Président du Conseil, M. Zancoff, et déposé leur protestation entre les mains du Préfet. Celui-ci a reçu un ordre télégraphique du Prince pour soumettre à son Altesse un Rapport détaillé sur l'incident électoral. On ne connaît pas encore la décision qui a été prise à cet effet. Toutefois, la conduite indigne tenue par les Bulgares dans cette circonstance a soulevé l'indignation du Corps Consulaire.

M. le Vice-Consul de Grèce, qui vient d'arriver aujourd'hui même de Choumla, nous rapporte que dans cette ville on a cassé deux fois les élections municipales dans lesquelles les Musulmans avaient obtenu une écrasante majorité.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur, &c.

No. 27.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, November 3.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 21 Octobre*, 1880.

PAR mon télégramme en date du 17 Octobre, je vous ai fait part des plaintes des habitants et des émigrés de Podgoritza, Spoutz, et Zabliak, contre les actes arbitraires dont ils sont l'objet de la part du Gouvernement Monténégrin. Il résulte d'autres informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte que les autorités Monténégrines, après avoir fait vendre de force et à vil prix les propriétés des habitants Latins de Rieka, viennent d'expulser sans aucun motif ces derniers du territoire de la Principauté. Dépouillés ainsi de tout leur avoir, chassés de leurs foyers, ces malheureux, qui sont sujets Ottomans, ont dû émigrer à Scutari-d'Albanie et implorent la protection du Gouvernement Impérial pour que le tort qui leur a été si injustement causé soit réparé.

Je vous prie de signaler ce qui précède à la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 28.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 2*, 1880.

WITH reference to despatch No. [?] of the 30th October, Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires was instructed by his Government to explain what M. Commoundouros meant by stating in Chamber that Greece would herself execute decision of Europe in regard to new frontier. Tevfik Bey spoke unofficially to the Prime Minister, asking the meaning of the expression he had made use of. The latter attempted to explain it away, and said that it was not the intention of Greece to take the initiative, but it was necessary to stimulate enthusiasm of the country.

Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires not being able to [? obtain] satisfactory explanation from Prime Minister, reported two days ago to his Government the result of his interview.

He has, up to this moment, received no further instructions on the subject. M. Commoundouros' statement to the Chamber, which may be expected to cast light on the intentions of the Government, was not made yesterday, and has again been postponed to the 4th instant, in consequence of the death in Royal Family.

(Copy to Constantinople.)

No. 29.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 2*, 1880.

WITH reference to Captain Sale's telegram to your Lordship No. 39, Montenegrin Government informed me day before yesterday of the reported movement of Turkish regular troops and Albanians on its frontier on the western shore of Lake Scutari, but it did not consider it of great importance, and was not sure whether Turks had not remained within their own lines.

I have urged Prince's Government to avoid giving too much importance just at this moment to any slight contravention on their borders. For the above reason it has for the present abstained from calling attention to several acts of violence by the Albanians against Montenegrins near Knascin.

I have also urged Turkish Minister here on the same grounds not to envenom feeling between the two countries by continuing his representation on the recent alleged ill-treatment of Mahommedans.

Dervish Pasha's mission ought to be allowed a clear and fair field.

(Repeated to Sale and Ambassador.)

No. 30.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 3*, 1880.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 147 of last night, I venture to add that although Prince Nicholas accepts my view that Montenegro must most carefully avoid affording the Porte the remotest pretext to tax the Principality with impeding the good intentions of the Turkish Government by its acts on Albanian borders, still His Highness is unable to bring himself to believe that anything but a further deception is in store for him through Dervish Pasha's mission.

I am reluctantly obliged to concur in Prince's opinion that the imposing force of regular troops now gathered around Scutari, the large quantities of stores and ammunition poured into that place, and the encouragement continued by Ottoman authorities to Scutari Committee to proceed with its warlike preparations, only point to an early commencement of hostilities against the Principality.

At Scutari itself no pains are taken to disguise [? conviction] that this is to be the end of Dulcigno question, for there it is known that no other result can arise as long as Porte can secure a local instead of an Imperial treatment of matter.

(Sent to Admiral and Ambassador.)

No. 31.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 114. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 3*, 1880.

I [group omitted ; ? hear] that M. Radowitch is leaving Paris without waiting until German Ambassador goes back to his post, because German Government is most anxious that he should return at once to Athens in order to express clearly to the Greek Government that Germany is in favour of Greece playing a waiting game at the present moment, and of her abstaining from taking any precipitate action as regards the frontier question.

The return of M. Radowitch to his post will not interfere with his appointment as German Ambassador at Constantinople in the event of Count Hatzfeldt being named Minister for Foreign Affairs here.

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stephen.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1880.*

I HAVE been glad to receive your account of the improved condition of the Mussulman population in Eastern Roumelia, and I approve the steps which you have taken in their interest, as reported in your despatch No. 349 of the 7th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stephen.

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 352 of the 7th ultimo, reporting some observations made by Aleko Pasha on Colonel Wilson's Report on Eastern Roumelia, and I approve the language which you used to his Excellency in reply to those remarks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 134.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 325 of the 11th ultimo, reporting your action in the question of the treatment of Mussulmans in Montenegro, and the assurances which you have given to the Ottoman Envoy, and I have to express my approval of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 135.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1880.*

I APPROVE the steps which you took, as reported in your despatch No. 327 of the 13th ultimo, to arrange with Admiral Sir B. Seymour for the visit of Prince Danilo of Montenegro to the Fleet, in accordance with the wishes expressed by his parents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 36.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 136.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1880.*

IN reply to your despatch No. 324 of the 8th ultimo, reporting that you had recommended the Prince of Montenegro not to withdraw his troops too hastily from the Albanian frontier, I have to state that I approve the language which you held to His Highness on this subject, as well as the advice which you gave him, to refrain from introducing his financial position into the question now at issue.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 37.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

E
(No. 486. Extender.)
My Lord, *Rome, October 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegrams Nos. 140 and 141, repeated in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 790 and 791, I have the honour to report that I have been informed by Count Maffei that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé had telegraphed on the 25th instant that the Turkish Delegate had written from Scutari the day before, that Riza Pasha was commencing measures for the pacific cession on the 28th instant, that the Prince of Montenegro wished Kounia to be the place for working out the technical details connected with the cession, that his Highness had appointed his cousin to represent him, and was anxious that the Italian Government should urge the Porte to desire Riza Pasha to attend at Kounia himself. His Highness had, further, expressed the wish that an Italian Representative should be present at the meeting of the Ottoman and Montenegrin Commissioners.

Count Maffei added that instructions had been sent to Count Corti in conformity with the wishes of the Prince, and that the Admiral had been directed to depute an Italian naval officer to attend at Kounia, the Italian Government having no Commissioner at present in Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 38.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

E
(No. 489. Extender.)
My Lord, *Rome, October 30, 1880.*

M. CAIROLI returned to Rome from the north of Italy the day before yesterday, and I had an interview with his Excellency yesterday afternoon.

I informed him that I had been charged by your Lordship to say how much Her Majesty's Government appreciated the co-operation of Italy in the recent proceedings respecting Montenegro, and that you hoped the two Governments might continue to act together.

M. Cairoli replied that he heartily reciprocated this wish. No one was more persuaded than himself of the advantage to Italy of a perfect understanding with Great Britain.

In answer to an inquiry I made as to the latest news respecting the cession of Dulcigno, his Excellency read me a telegram, dated the 28th, from the Italian Consul at Scutari, stating that Riza Pasha had marched that day at 2 o'clock with 2,000 men upon Dulcigno; that he had been encountered by 100 armed Albanians, who had opposed his advance; that he had asked to speak with the Chief, who had declined any communication, further than to say that if Riza Pasha desired to avoid bloodshed he must retire, and that upon this Riza Pasha had given orders to his troops to return to a village (the name of which had not been decyphered) at half-an-hour's distance in the rear.

The Consul went on to describe the excitement of the population; nothing was being done in the bazaars; a crier was going about summoning the people to arms; if the movement continued there would be in a few days 7,000 armed men ready to fight both Montenegrins and Turks rather than surrender Dulcigno.

I asked M. Cairoli what was his opinion of the proceedings of Riza Pasha, and of the rest of the information contained in this telegram.

He replied that if Riza Pasha had occupied Dulcigno at the proper time, he might have done so without meeting any opposition at all.

The Turks had shown so much bad faith throughout this question, that it was impossible to have any further confidence in them. He was therefore almost inclined to look upon what had now occurred as a further device for avoiding or delaying the cession.

It was impossible, M. Cairoli said, for the Powers to continue to put up with such conduct. The Turkish Government must be made to carry out its obligations.

His Excellency said his intention was to telegraph the above information to Count Corti, instructing him to bring it before the Porte, and to concert with his

colleagues in exercising the most energetic action, with the view of inducing the Porte to fulfil its solemn engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 39.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 491.)
My Lord,

Rome, October 30, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 486 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in the interview I had with M. Cairoli yesterday, his Excellency told me that, as there appeared to be some objection to a naval officer attending the meeting of the Ottoman and Montenegrin Commanders for the cession of Dulcigno, Colonel Ottolenghi, the Italian Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontier, had been directed to return to Montenegro, but that he had instructed the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé to beg that the proceedings might not be retarded by waiting for Colonel Ottolenghi's arrival.

Colonel Ottolenghi left Rome yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 40.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 328. Extender.)
My Lord,

Athens, October 28, 1880.

I SENT to your Lordship, by telegraph on the 26th instant the substance of the speech of M. Coumoundouros on the first occasion of his addressing the Chamber since his acceptance of office in succession to M. Tricoupi, and I have now the honour to inclose a translation of his Excellency's speech on that occasion, as published by the "Ethnicon Pneuma," his organ in the daily press.

Your Lordship will observe that M. Coumoundouros says that Greece had a decision of Europe which the Government "must carry out," as is required by "our national honour, our great interests, and the condition of our brethren" (outside the kingdom).

I also inclose a précis of the speech of M. Tricoupi, calling on the Government to express their views at once, and the rejoinder of M. Coumoundouros, in which he insists upon a delay of five days before announcing to the Chamber what the intentions of the Government are.

Finally, the House divided, and by a majority of 37 votes the delay was accorded to the Government, and the Chamber adjourned until the 1st November.

I have, &c.
(Signed). EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extracts from the "Ethnicon Pneuma" and the "Hora" of October 26 and 27, 1880.

(Translation.)

AT the Chamber of Deputies on the 26th October, M. Coumoundouros made the following statement:—

"On the resignation of M. Tricoupi's Ministry, His Majesty was pleased to charge us with the direction of public affairs. As we voted against the late Ministry, we considered ourselves obliged to undertake this burden, especially under the present circumstances.

"You know, gentlemen, our policy; it is an old one. You know our ideas concerning the military preparation of the nation; they are old, too. You know by what means we believe the international questions can be solved. Power is the essential factor, and especially in the Eastern question.

"But now we have no longer to deal with theories. We have a decision of Europe which we must carry out. This is required by our national honour, by our great interests,

by the condition of our brethren, and our respect for the decision of Europe, which is aiming at an important result, namely, the maintenance of peace in the East as well as in Europe. We are obliged, therefore, to prepare ourselves, and the more we prepare the easier we shall find it to overcome the difficulties and obstacles which we may meet in the execution of that decision. This is, moreover, the opinion of the nation, which, for this object, is gladly submitting itself with the greatest readiness and devotion to considerable and heavy sacrifices.

"The policy, therefore, which we follow, is the policy of the nation, and whoever does not admit these sentiments and these ideas as such is unworthy of taking any part in public affairs.

"Here is, gentlemen, in a few words, our programme, which is the principal and only programme of the Chamber, of the Greek Government, and of the nation. Our other proposals are of secondary importance, and so I will not take your time with them.

"Up to the present time there are in the army 36,000 men, of whom 7,700 belong to the regular class of conscripts; the others were called out in consequence of the Mobilization Decree. Unfortunately, as things were done in haste, the drilling of this force is proceeding but imperfectly, because we require necessary and competent persons. Not only is the drilling imperfectly carried on, but in many provinces it does not take place at all, owing to the impossibility of proceeding with it.

"For this cause we are unable to form an army such as we intend and desire, so long as its principal wants are not made good; it has no supply of clothes, shoes, or blankets.

"We need, therefore, to supply these wants, and we are now engaged upon this. But in order that we may have time to do so, and may be able to bring to you exact and detailed information on our financial condition, we require a few days. I have, therefore, to request the Chamber to adjourn its sittings until Monday, when we believe we shall be in a position to state to you the extent of our wants."

M. Tricoupi then rose and observed that it was not sufficient that the Chamber should know what were M. Coumoundouros' ideas last year, or what were the views of the members of the present Government before the arbitration decision of the Berlin Conference. What the Chamber required to know was, what were the views of the Government on the policy the nation must pursue now, at a time when Europe, by an arbitration decision, which must be carried out by her and by Greece alike, has declared that some provinces belonging to Hellenism must also belong to the Greek State. He (M. Tricoupi) was well aware that M. Coumoundouros had been favourable some time ago to the proposal for an army of 200,000 men; whereas last year he wanted an army of only 15,000 men. "The country must know whether the Government approves of the Mobilization Decree, and what is to be the policy of the Government. Perhaps M. Coumoundouros had pointed out the wants of the army in order to indicate his intention of reducing its numbers. Greece was now in possession of an army of 47,000 men, namely, 36,000 or 35,000, in addition to the 12,000 which existed previously, and the late Government had provided the means not only for them, but for 75,000. (Applause.) As to the officers," M. Tricoupi went on to say, "there were sufficient for 12,000, 15,000, or 25,000 men, but not for 47,000 men, the present number of the army, and for the 70,000 to which it will amount later on. He inquired, therefore, whether the Government meant to reduce the army, or to propose the increase of the number of officers. He concluded by requesting the Chamber not to grant the delay of five days until it was perfectly in possession of the views of the Government.

M. Coumoundouros replied that the views of the Government were that the nation must prepare in order to carry out the decision of the Powers. (Applause.) Two thousand officers were needed to train the present troops. M. Tricoupi had ordered many things, as he said, in Europe, but immediate wants could not be supplied by orders. "We do not know when these orders are to be fulfilled." In order to supply these wants many things were required. He, therefore, begged the House to grant him five days in order to enable him to state the extent of his requirements.

No. 41.

E *Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)*

(No. 332.)
My Lord,

Athens, October 28, 1880.

M. COUMOUNDOUROS told me to-day that in consequence of a greater number of recruits having come forward than was expected by the late Government, the army now forming would amount to 80,000 men, and a loan of one hundred instead of

sixty millions would be required. He said it was impossible to refuse to enrol these men, as they were included in the classes called out by the Royal Decree of Mobilization.

In addition to the 300 Greek recruits who have come at their own expense from the Danube some days ago, 250 more have arrived at Athens to-day from the Danubian Principalities.

The general enthusiasm seems very evidently on the increase now that a prospect of really active proceedings appears more imminent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 42.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4, 7·20 P.M.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buosich, November 4, 1880, 4·20 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is from Austrian official at Medua:—

"Nineteen hundred Turkish soldiers have arrived since the 26th October. Dervish Pasha arrived the 1st instant in the Imperial yacht, and went on immediately to Dulcigno, where he was not permitted to land. On the 2nd instant he went from Medua to Scutari."

No. 43.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4, 8 P.M.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 4, 1880, 1 P.M.*

MONTENEGRIN Government has learnt this moment information that Dervish Pasha has arrived at Scutari, after having failed to induce Dulcigniotes to receive him.

It is reported also that Riza Pasha has been recalled by Porte.

(Repeated to Admiral and Ambassador.)

No. 44.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 4, 1880, 7·30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 147 of the 2nd.

I entirely approve the judicious advice you gave to Prince Nicholas.

No. 45.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 137. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 4, 1880.*

I HAVE telegraphed to you to express my entire approval of the judicious advice which you have given to the Montenegrin Government, as reported in your telegram No. 147 of the 2nd instant, to abstain as much as possible for the present from calling attention to the conduct of the Turks and Albanians towards the Prince's subjects on the frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 46.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 115. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 22, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches No. 109 of the 11th, and No. 112 of the 17th instant, relative to the outrage said to have been perpetrated by a certain Sami Bey on a young Jewess of Drama, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli's despatch, furnishing the result of the inquiries he made into the matter by my direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Cavalla, le 18 Octobre, 1880.*

J'AI reçu et je vous renvoi l'extrait de la lettre de Drama, me faisant un devoir de vous donner, d'après votre désir, les informations suivantes recueillies à des sources dignes de foi:

M. le Consul-Général; dans cette affaire on a réellement fait beaucoup de bruit pour rien.

Les Israélites de Cavalla connaissent tous la fille Solica, et savent que ces mœurs étaient mauvaises, même à Serres, ville habitée par la famille Benveniste avant de se rendre à Drama.

La fille *seule* se rendit chez Sami Bey de sa propre volonté.

Nombre de témoins, Turcs et Chrétiens, pourraient attester de l'avoir vus entrer de bon matin toute seule dans la maison de Sami Bey qui, du reste, ne nie pas d'avoir la fille chez lui, ni se refuse de la rendre si elle le voulait, chose reconnue même par les plaignants dans leur mémorandum.

Sami Bey ne se refuse non plus de faire entrer dans sa maison les parents pour reprendre la fille, et si Azir Bey s'opposa après, cela arriva lorsque les Juifs en masse et armés eurent l'air de vouloir prendre d'assaut la maison, violer son domicile, et menacer l'arme à la main. Les Juifs, après avoir commis réellement la violation du domicile de Sami Bey, tournèrent la question et voulurent prouver l'impossible, c'est-à-dire, que la fille avait 15 ans (elle en a au moins 18); qu'elle avait été forcée d'entrer dans la maison séducteur; qu'il ne voulait plus la rendre, et que la fille était vierge!

Pure fable tout cela, inventée pour échapper aux plaintes de Sami Bey pour la violation de sa maison.

Le père de Solica, après l'avoir reconduite à sa maison, lui administra bon nombre de soufflets et de coups de pied.

Ça prouve la culpabilité de la fille, puisqu'on ne punit pas de la sorte la victime d'un guet-apens.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) Dr. PECCHIOLI.

No. 47.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 117. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two recent letters from my correspondent in Cassandra, giving some details about brigandage in that district.

I also hear that several well-to-do villagers have been kidnapped by brigands in the district of Kara-ferin.

Two of them were carried off from Nissel, and one from Klidi, two small hamlets

distant about 4 miles from Colonel Synge's farm. These outrages were perpetrated within the last three weeks, and the victims have not yet been released.

Hadji Ibrahim Agha and party, whose capture by the brigand Chief Panayotti Caloyero I reported in my despatch to your Lordship, No. 104 of the 21st ultimo, have not yet been able to procure the heavy ransom demanded for their release. In the meantime the authorities, at the urgent request of Ibrahim Agha, have directed the police and military not to pursue Caloyero and his band pending the result of negotiations for the ransom of the captives.

I have heard of no recent acts of brigandage in the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres, but in Epirus and Thessaly, particularly in Epirus, the evil has, by all accounts, assumed very serious dimensions. Large bands of robbers, some of them numbering as many as 100 men, roam about with impunity, and rob and torture or put to death the peaceable villagers; and I have been assured by persons who have business relations with Janina, Zaghori, Arghyrocastro, and Berat, that most complete insecurity now reigns in South Albania.

Thessaly also continues to suffer from this terrible scourge of brigandage. The day before yesterday a private telegram reached here from Larissa,* stating that Arif Bey, the President of the Municipal Council of Salonica, and one of the most influential Turks here, has been carried off by brigands in the vicinity of Armyro in that province, where he had gone to visit his estates. It is feared that a large ransom will be demanded for his release.

In the meantime, no serious efforts are made by the Government to combat this crying evil, and the inhabitants, both Turks and Christians, have lost all confidence in the ability of the authorities to protect them. The insignificant and questionable success of local police measures, and the impunity with which the lawless classes carry on their proceedings, tend to confirm the prevalent impression that some of the Chiefs of the Albanian gendarmerie, which was organized for temporary service by Abédine Pasha when he was Governor-General of this vilayet, are secretly, if not openly, in league with the banditti.

These gendarmes, irrespective of the regular police force, cost the province per month upwards of 3,500*l.*; and, it is said, but I don't know with what truth, that a large proportion of this heavy charge is misapplied and embezzled; but be this as it may, it is a palpable fact that the province has not derived any benefit from these Albanian gendarmes. On the contrary, people complain of their excesses, and dread their presence as much as that of the brigands.

In proof of their worthlessness in the way of affording protection to life and property, I need only state that, since their organization about six months ago, they have only had one serious encounter with the numerous bands that infest these districts, and that took place in Abédine Pasha's time, and under his personal directions.

The truth is that so long as Abédine Pasha governed this vilayet, his influence and prestige over these Albanian irregulars offered some guarantee for their discipline and good conduct. As soon as he was recalled they resumed their disorderly practices, and have contributed to the frequency and gravity of brigandage in this province.

Public opinion is decidedly against them, and it is earnestly hoped that the Government will dispense with their services.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent in Cassandra.

October 14, 1880.

(Extract.)

I HAVE learned from two sources that, about twenty days ago, a band of brigands, under Captain Gania, and another one, the Chief of which I could not ascertain—in all, thirty-three men—embarked from Xeropotami, near Sykia, for Olympus, in a small vessel which was chartered for 16 Turkish liras. About the same time, a band of sixteen brigands landed near Nea-Cassandra, and are now lurking about Polygeros. It is said that this band is composed of Hellenes.

So that, at present, there remain in this district of Cassandra this band of sixteen men and another one of seven men, under Captain Athanas, of Shuputnikia. This latter keeps near and about Lake Besehik.

* Subsequently confirmed by the Governor of Thessaly.

It is said that Gania carried away with him 1,500 liras only from the charcoal-burners. I have reason to believe that many young men from different villages are volunteering for the Greek Army. Four have left here mysteriously, and no trace of them can be found. I know for certain that one of them has gone to Athens. I asked him what he expected to do there without any means, but I could get no reply from him. It seems these young fellows go to a Greek merchant (with whose name I am acquainted), and he ships them off to the Piræus from Salonica. They go to him to obtain his advice as to the best plan to pursue in Athens.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent in Cassandra.

October 19, 1880.

(Extract.)

A FEW days ago the brigand Chief, Capitan Athanas, captured an inhabitant of Lukovi, of the name of Thoma, while he was picking olives on Mount Cholomonda.

He was carried off to a place near Shuputnikia, Athanas' native village, and was kept prisoner for two days. Athanas' band consists of five men, including himself. Two are dressed in "fustanells," and three "binevrakia," or country trowsers. One night Thoma was left alone in the charge of only two of the brigands, who, he says, kept no watch, and after some time fell asleep. Thoma perceiving this, gently pulled the rope by which he was secured around the waist, and the end of which was in the keeping of one of his guardians.

Finding that he could pull it without disturbing the sleeper, he quietly arose and made off to the woods, and thence to Polygeros, where he informed the authorities of what had taken place.

I am told that the inhabitants of the Shuputnikia (all Christians) have been summoned to Salonica on the charge of supplying Athanas with provisions and of concealing him from the police.

Thoma, in his account, states that the brigands were regularly supplied with fresh grapes every day—a luxury at this time of year.

He also says that, so sure are the brigands of being unmolested, that they even neglect to set sentinels at night—a sure sense of security on the part of brigands.

No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

E

(No. 118. Political.)

Salonica, October 25, 1880.

My Lord,

THE information relative to the recruiting which is carried on in the district of Cassandra, to which my correspondent in that district has called my attention in his letter of the 14th instant, copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my immediately preceding despatch, is confirmed by other well-informed sources, and I am assured that some young men from other districts in Macedonia have secretly left their homes for the purpose of enlisting in the Greek Army; but the aggregate number of these native volunteers does not reach 200. This does not include the Hellenes in the province who are bound to military service, of whom, however, a very small number has responded to the summons of the Greek War Office to join the army.

At Serres, where there is a large Hellenic community, the Ottoman authorities have taken some umbrage at the conduct of the Hellenic Consul, who posted up bills in the public places summoning his clients liable to military service to proceed at once to Greece, and warning those who neglect to obey the summons that they will be considered and treated as deserters.

I also hear that Secret Committees have been formed here and in the principal towns of Macedonia, for the purpose of raising funds to assist the Greek Government in mobilizing its army; but the native Greeks have contributed very little towards that purpose, and, from all I hear and observe, there is not much enthusiasm amongst them for the Greek cause, and very little inclination to run any risk or expense in favour of it.

The same Committees are also actively trying to prepare the Christians to rise in case of a war between Turkey and Greece. They are introducing arms into the

country, especially in the direction of Cassandra (ancient Chalcidice) and the Mount Olympus districts.

I am assured that the Chiefs who are to lead the rising are already on the spot, and that all other necessary arrangements have been made for a general movement against the Turkish forces on this side of Macedonia immediately the Greek army enters Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 49.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 119. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of the telegram which I sent yesterday, at 6 P.M., to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I may mention that one of the sons of Dervish Pasha was killed in the war with Montenegro, and since that time the old man, by nature vindictive and cruel, has vowed to revenge his loss.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—An Aide-de-camp of the Sultan arrived here in the despatch-boat "Stamboul," to communicate to Dervish Pasha his Majesty's confidential commands regarding his mission in Albania.

J. E. B.

No. 50.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

E
(No. 120. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 26, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114 of the 19th instant, relative to the meeting of the Albanian League in Dibra, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been confidentially informed that a M. Pietro Chiadara, native of Palermo, and of Albanian origin, who—it is said, is employed by the Italian Government in secret service in Albania—has gone to attend the meeting in question, and that the Italian Consular Cavass sent from here to Dibra was the bearer of despatches for him.

M. Logothete, my Hellenic colleague at Monastir, from where he arrived the day before yesterday, mentioned to me that it was generally rumoured and believed in that place that an Italian emissary was in regular communication with the influential members of the Albanian League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 51.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 121. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extract from a letter which reached me from my correspondent in the Sandjak of Serres after I had posted my Report to your Lordship No. 117 of the 24th instant upon the state of affairs in Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent in the Sandjak of Serres, dated October 15, 1880.

A CASE of kidnapping has lately been perpetrated at Petritz, a town not far distant from Serres.

The son of Halim Agha, a relative of Husni Bey, a well-to-do Turk, was carried off to the mountains by a band of Bulgarian "comitadjis," *alias* bandits, headed by a certain Bantz Kali.

A ransom of 1,000*l.* was demanded, but the affair was compromised, and the bandits consented to receive only 600*l.* for his ransom.

A Mr. Pemba, who was kidnapped about six weeks ago on the Salonica road, and who had to pay about 150*l.* for his ransom, died here last week from injuries, it is said, resulting through exposures and fatigues during his captivity.

In Serres proper, fortunately, we feel quite safe, owing to the presence of troops, but on the roads to villages and towns insecurity exists.

No. 52.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 5.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, November 4, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 27th October last, together with the copy of a letter addressed to the Vice-Admiral by the Prince of Montenegro, relative to the progress of negotiations.

As my Lords understand that copies of Annexes 1, 2, 3, and 4 inclosed in the Prince of Montenegro's letter have already been received at the Foreign Office, they are not forwarded.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *"Alexandra," Teodo Bay, October 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter, and its inclosures, addressed to me by the Prince of Montenegro.

2. I have communicated the contents of the inclosure to my colleagues, the foreign Commanders of the combined fleet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. P. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

The Prince of Montenegro to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

M. l'Amiral, *Cettinjé, le $\frac{25}{27}$ Octobre, 1880.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer, ci-jointes, les pièces relatives aux pourparlers qui ont eu lieu à Ricka entre les Délégués Turcs et Monténégrins sur la Convention à conclure pour la remise du district et de la ville de Dulcigno.

Votre Excellence voudra bien se convaincre par le contenu de ces pièces que mon Gouvernement s'est donné à tâche d'apporter la plus grande modération dans ces négociations afin d'écarter tout malentendu pouvant en compromettre la réussite.

En vous priant de vouloir bien communiquer aux Commandants de la flotte combinée, placée sous vos ordres, les pièces précitées, veuillez, &c.

(Signé) NICOLAS.

---

* For Annexes 1, 2, 3, and 4, see Part LIV, Inclosures in No. 574.

No. 53.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, November 4, 1880.*

THREE battalions of reserves have been called out at Pergamos; probably now reached destination, supposed to be Dardanelles.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 54.

Vice-Consul Maling to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Dardanelles, November 4, 1880.*

A TURKISH transport has begun to land torpedoes and other military stores at Nagara Fort in the Dardanelles.

Three redoubts have been commenced on the heights near Nagara and Mamazin Forts.

No. 55.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5, 3 P.M.)

(No. 343.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1880, noon.*

CONSUL at Smyrna telegraphed yesterday that three battalions of reserves have been called up at Pergamos. Probably now ready. Destination supposed to be Dardanelles.

Major Warlow telegraphs from Karabissar that an urgent telegram from Porte arrived yesterday, ordering immediate despatch to Constantinople of conscripts enlisted.

No. 56.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 513.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 29, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 660 of the 9th instant, Turkhan Bey, the Turkish Ambassador at Rome, called on me a few days ago, and I had a long conversation with him. I found him very intelligent, and more European in his manner and in his mode of expressing himself than any Turk I have met.

I referred in very general terms to his conversation with Mr. Macdonell which had been reported to me; but I soon saw that he was not at present in a position to exert any influence.

The circumstances of his summons to Constantinople are very peculiar, and up till now no one is aware of the reasons for it.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs told Turkhan Bey that he had not been informed of the dispatch of the telegram recalling him, and he was in total ignorance of the intentions of the Sultan with regard to him.

The Prime Minister could give no information. When Turkhan Bey called here, he assured me he had not the slightest idea as to whether he was required for an appointment in Constantinople, or whether he was to return to his post or to be sent elsewhere.

He was invited to dine with the Sultan on the day after his arrival; but when he went to the Palace was informed that the Sultan was rather tired, and he was invited to dine with the Aides-de-camp. He had been two or three times since to the Palace, but had not seen the Sultan yet, nor had he acquired any news as to what His Majesty's intentions with regard to him might be.

The summons had been sent direct from the Palace, as I have already stated, without the intervention or knowledge of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I give your Lordship these details, as they are highly significant of the present mode of doing business prevalent at the Palace and the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 57.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 514.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 29, 1880.*

I SAW Assim Pasha and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the day before yesterday. I wished to hear precisely at what stage the Montenegrin frontier negotiations had arrived, and what was the nature of the reported mission of Dervish Pasha. I paid separate visits to the Minister and the Under-Secretary as I wished to make sure of receiving all the information which the Department possessed.

I did not, however, learn much. Telegraphic communication, I was told, had been interrupted, and the Foreign Minister had no full details corresponding in any way to the news I had received from Mr. Kirby Green. But all was going well; I might be assured that it was only a question of a few days.

Dervish Pasha had been sent to reinforce (*sic*) Riza Pasha. The latter was possibly rather too soft ("mou"). Four battalions of troops were dispatched with Dervish Pasha.

I am bound to state that the impression was conveyed to me by the Foreign Minister that he was in earnest.

On the other hand, I learnt this morning from an unofficial but well informed source that the telegrams reaching the Porte during the last two days from Albania are unsatisfactory, and to the effect that they will probably fight.

When I was about to leave the Foreign Minister I said to his Excellency, "You will remember that the Turkish Government will be held strictly responsible if the Albanians attack Dulcigno after it has been delivered."

He replied, "You may be sure that they will not attack."

I repeated, "But the Porte will understand that it is responsible by international law for the acts of the Albanians, who are still its subjects, if they do attack."

His Excellency again answered, "There is no need to raise the point. When Podgoritza was surrendered the same fear was expressed, but no attack was made."

However, I would not be satisfied, and insisted a third time that the Porte could not deny its responsibility. I urged the point so strongly because in the note of the 3rd October the Porte had seemed to disclaim the responsibility which it clearly could not put aside. His Excellency at length murmured something like assent to my proposition.

It is essential to keep this point well in view. Your Lordship may remember that I reported a conversation much in the same sense between myself and Abédine Pasha, when the latter wished to contend that the Porte would not be responsible for events happening after the transfer.

With regard to the general situation, I am still inclined to believe that the Sultan, and still more the Ministers generally, are this time in earnest, but they are now feeling the full effect of their previous double-dealing with the Albanians, whom they may now have real difficulty in controlling. It is very generally thought that the hesitation of Riza Pasha is in a great measure due to his recollection of the fate of Mehemet Ali.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 58.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 504. Extender.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November 3, 1880.*

DURING the last few days a report has been current here that Prince Bismarck had tendered his resignation.

This report originated in a statement to that effect which had appeared in a recent number of the Vienna "Montags-Revue," and, as the publication in question is regarded as a semi-official journal, people attached more importance to it than they would probably otherwise have done.

I have, however, no reason to suppose that there is any ground for the report, and the papers of last evening contained what had every appearance of being an official

contradiction of the rumour. It at all events corresponded with the assurances, in a similar sense, given to me yesterday by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and also with the information I have been able to obtain in other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 59.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 506. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 3, 1880.*

M. DE RADOWITZ, who, since the German Ambassador at Paris left his post to assume the direction of the Foreign Office here, has been in charge of the Embassy, will return almost immediately to Athens to resume his duties as Minister there.

Under ordinary circumstances M. de Radowitz would have remained at Paris until Prince Hohenlohe, who I am happy to say has nearly recovered from his late serious illness, could go back to his post; but the German Government consider it so desirable to have some one at Athens just now who can explain clearly to the Greek Government the views of Prince Bismarck as to the necessity of their abstaining from any precipitate action, that M. de Radowitz has been requested to proceed to Athens at once.

This arrangement, however, will in no way interfere with his subsequent appointment as Count Hatzfeldt's successor at Constantinople, whenever the latter can be spared from his present duties, and his own services are no longer required in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 60.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6, 7·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, November 6, 1880.*

I HAVE been confidentially informed that a Turkish frigate named "Mukadem Sheref," with a large number of torpedoes aboard, is daily expected here.

No. 61.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 670.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 6, 1880.*

I INCLOSE copy of a telegram from the Turkish Government, communicated to me by Musurus Bey,* from which it appears that certain persons imprisoned at Samakow, in Bulgaria, for non-payment of taxes, have petitioned the Russian Government through the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh. Your Excellency will perceive that this statement is too vague to admit of any representation being based upon it, and is evidently only communicated with the object of casting discredit upon the Bulgarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 62.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 6, 1880.*

WITH reference to Admiral Sir B. Seymour's Report, inclosed in your letter of the 26th ultimo, on the state of the negotiations between Turkey and Montenegro for the cession of Dulcigno, I am directed by Earl Granville to request that you will state

* See Part LIV, No. 542.

to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Lordship is of opinion that the Admiral should be approved for his intention to abstain from sending a naval officer to attend on the occasion of the ultimate cession of the town and district.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 63.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7, 7 P.M.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 7, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

MR. SUMMA telegraphs to me from Scutari, under date of yesterday, that the day before, Dervish Pasha assembled the Chiefs of the League and informed them that the surrender of Dulcigno is unavoidable. Mr. Summa adds, however, that the Pasha's language has led the Albanians to understand that he has no greater power than his predecessors, so that no satisfactory result need be expected from his mission.

Three hundred volunteers have already arrived from Tortova, and others are expected from different localities.

Mr. Summa's estimate of the probable outcome of the Pasha's mission deserves special attention, and I must add [? credence], as the Dulcigno question is entirely dependent on the [?] action of the Sultan's Government, [who] can completely control it.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 64.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7, 11 P.M.)

(No. 348.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 7, 1880, 5·45 P.M.*

I AM informed that the Turkish Government has taken measures to prevent Kurdish hordes from re-entering Turkish territory. Nine battalions had been sent to form a cordon. I should, however, be surprised if the Turks act against the Kurds. No news at the Porte yesterday about Dulcigno. To-day I hear Dervish Pasha has been ordered peremptorily to have Dulcigno surrendered by Tuesday, and that he is not to telegraph anything except that this has been done. I cannot guarantee that this is true. My last news from Mr. Green is of the 4th.

No. 65.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, November 7, 1880, 9·35 P.M.*

I HAVE information, by special messenger from Scutari, which confirms that contained in Mr. Green's telegram No. 150 to your Lordship. Dervish Pasha, in a public assembly of the Chiefs, said that the surrender of Dulcigno was ordered by the Sultan, and was absolutely necessary, but he is said to be intriguing in private at the same time in a contrary sense.

No. 66.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 501. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1880.*

I INFORMED Baron Jomini this afternoon that I had just heard from your Lordship that Mr. Goschen had been instructed to support the Austrian Ambassador in the fresh representations which he had been directed to make to the Sultan.

Baron Jomini said he was under the impression that similar instructions to support his Austrian colleague had been sent also to M. Novikoff from Livadia.

Baron Jomini, however, expressed his opinion that the efforts of the Austrian Ambassador, even when supported by all his colleagues, would be of no avail in bringing the Sultan to reason. Nothing, except the probability of an immediate application of force, will now induce the Porte to give up to those pretexts for delay, which she had found to answer her purpose so thoroughly, and unfortunately at the present moment such an application of force seemed difficult, in view of the objections to it entertained by many of the Powers.

I observed to his Excellency that in the position in which matters now stood the main object must be to keep up the concert of the Powers, and to show as far as possible a united and firm front to the Porte; for this purpose it might be desirable to slacken the pace, so as to allow the less energetic companions to close up with the rest.

I also reminded his Excellency of the forcible nature of the language in which the last instructions of Baron Haymerle to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople were couched; the present tergiversations of the Sultan respecting the surrender of Dulcigno had at least had the good effect of causing Austria to bring greater, if still only moral, pressure to bear upon His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 67.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 502. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 23, 1880.*

BARON JOMINI was good enough to read to me this afternoon the following extract from a private letter which he had received from M. de Giers dated Livadia, the 7th instant:—

"Tell Mr. Plunkett that we will follow England to the utmost limit which may be possible, without compromising our good relations with our two big neighbours."

Baron Jomini said:—

"You see what our sentiments are; it is not the fault of Russia if England is not properly supported in her endeavours for the due execution of the Treaty of Berlin."

Baron Jomini takes a desponding view of the present state of affairs in the East. He fears the end of the long negotiations will merely be the bold result that the Sultan will at last, almost as a favour, hand over to the Montenegrins Dulcigno, which now ought to be theirs by right; but, in return for this concession, His Majesty will have obtained that the line east of the lake will be left undecided; the fleets will disperse, each its own way, and the Greek and other questions will be adjourned indefinitely.

This complete triumph for the Sultan is, in his Excellency's opinion, due to what he termed the baneful influence of Austrian diplomacy.

Austria is, in his opinion, the steadiest opponent of Russia in the East, and his Excellency implied that Germany, who, for her own purposes, pushes Austria more and more towards the Ægean, fans still further the hostility felt by Austria towards this country.

Under such circumstances, and with such keen jealousies dividing the Powers, his Excellency marvelled that your Lordship should have succeeded in keeping them working together so long, and the only hope he could now see for the Christian populations in Turkey is in the continuance by Great Britain of exertions which so far had produced so much fruit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 68.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 503.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 23, 1880.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 852 of yesterday, I called upon Baron Jomini and stated to his Excellency, in reply to the enquiry which he made of me on the 22nd instant, that your Lordship had informed Prince Lobanoff that Her Majesty's Government doubted the expediency of threatening the Porte with ulterior measures. They feared the position might be weakened, if, as was not improbable, some of the other Powers abstained from holding identical language at Constantinople.

Baron Jomini said that he had already received from Prince Lobanoff a telegram, reporting the substance of your Lordship's observations on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 69.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 507. Very Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 1, 1880.*

BARON JOMINI again to-day reverted to the serious dangers which menace Europe if the Greeks should carry out their threat of endeavouring to obtain possession, by force, of the territory accorded to them by the Berlin Award.

I observed that, if all the Powers would steadily dissuade Greece from so rash a proceeding, there was no probability of their being so foolish as to court the certain defeat which the Turks were still strong enough to inflict upon them, if left to deal with Greece single-handed.

His Excellency replied that it would be difficult for the Powers to remain silent and passive spectators of such a contest if Greece were defeated. Moreover, the Greeks would not be alone. If they attacked Turkey they might be certain that the Sultan would be harrassed, on one side by the Montenegrins, and on the other by a Bulgarian rising.

I expressed some surprise at this, and observed that Russia was surely able to prevent such an outbreak.

His Excellency said, Russia would see it with regret; but, with the best will, he feared, she could not kept the Bulgarians quiet under such circumstances.

I cannot help being struck by the frequent reference which Baron Jomini, on one pretext or another, makes to the impossibility of Russia preventing an outbreak of the Bulgarians under certain circumstances.

I find that in his conversations with the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, Baron Jomini appears to be less outspoken on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 70.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

E
(No. 513. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 3, 1880.*

THE declaration which Baron Haymerle made to the Austro-Hungarian delegations at Buda-Pesth on the 26th instant has been severely criticized both by the Russian press and by Russian society generally.

The Russians are little inclined to make allowance for the difficulties of his Excellency's position. They consider he went to greater lengths than was necessary for his purpose, and too far to leave any hope of mere "threats" of demonstrations having any further effect upon the Sultan.

Baron Jomini, in speaking to me upon this subject, displayed his usual antipathy to Austria, and his strong suspicion of her motives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 71.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 617.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 3, 1880.*

MORE especially since the present deadlock on the Montenegrin question, my German and Austrian colleagues have frequently questioned me as to the policy which Her Majesty's Government is at present pursuing with the Russian Government.

The language I have held is, that Her Majesty's Government are pursuing no separate negotiations with Russia; their object is to act with all the Powers, and thus maintain the European concert; that so far from desiring to drive the Turks out of Europe, or favour the erection of a "Big Bulgaria," Her Majesty's Government desire to strengthen the Turks, and to maintain them at Constantinople; but that Her Majesty's Government consider the best mode of sustaining the Sultan is to take away from him those portions of his dominions which he cannot manage, and to get rid once for all of the Montenegrin, Greek, and Armenian questions, which so greatly weaken his vitality, in order to make the Sultan stronger in those countries which have been left to His Majesty by the Treaty and Conference of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 72.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 338. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, October 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 144 of this morning's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy of Riza Pasha's letter to M. Bozo Petrovich putting off the proposed meeting at Konia, until the better completion of the steps taken to induce the Albanians to permit the surrender of Dulcigno and its district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Riza Pasha to M. Petrovich.

Le 27 Octobre, 1880.

LES dispositions que je viens d'adopter pour la cession de la ville et du district de Dulcigno par des moyens pacifiques n'ayant pas donné déjà un résultat suffisant pour procéder à l'élaboration des détails techniques, je me trouve dans l'impossibilité de venir le 28 Octobre à Counia pour rejoindre votre Excellence. J'espère que votre Excellence sera informée en peu de temps du jour de notre réunion. Espérant que votre Excellence voudra bien m'excuser, je vous prie, M. le Général-en-chef, d'agreer, &c.

No. 73.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 335.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 30, 1880.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 328 of the 26th October, I have the honour to inclose a Report, taken from the "Messager d'Athènes," of the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies on the 26th instant.*

Your Lordship will observe that M. Coumoundouros is reported to have said that the "policy of the Government is not to prepare ourselves until the execution of the decision of Europe, but to execute ourselves that decision."

I am informed by a person who was present at the sitting that this Report is correct, and that it was received with loud cheers from all parts of the House, and from the tribunes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

---

* October 28, 1880.

No. 74.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 336.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 30, 1880.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 332 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to report that 350 volunteers arrived at Athens on the 28th instant from Roumanian ports, and 200 more yesterday from the same places. Other Greek subjects, in considerable numbers, have come to Greece to enrol themselves from Smyrna, and other places in Asia Minor, and from Alexandria. The Government, however, have hitherto discouraged the enrolment of persons not actually called upon to serve under the late mobilization Decree.

The excitement throughout the Greek communities outside the kingdom appears on the increase, and in Greece, since the change of Ministry, public opinion appears daily more and more in favour of early action.

It is expected that the statement which the Prime Minister is to make on the 1st November will be still more accentuated than when he spoke last, five days ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 75.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

E. MS. C.
(No. 513. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 6, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in his despatch No. 499 of the 28th September last, marked Very Confidential, alludes to a report which had reached his Excellency through a private source to the effect that, in replying to a request recently addressed to His Imperial Majesty by the Sultan, the Emperor of Germany, while courteously declining to mediate between the Powers and Turkey, had privately suggested to the Sultan that he would do well to put forward his claims to have such parts of the Berlin Treaty considered as told in his favour and had not yet been executed, hinting, at the same time, that he might count upon the support of Germany.

Mr. Goschen was, I think I may safely say, perfectly justified in attaching but little credit to the story.

It may be perfectly true that Germany, while loyally determined to aid, although by diplomatic pressure only, in urging the Porte to fulfil her engagements, is averse from taking any steps or using any language which might diminish her present increasing popularity at Constantinople, and thus weaken a position she may hope to turn to a profitable account at some subsequent period; still, such counsels as those indicated by Mr. Goschen's informant would be so opposed to the policy which Prince Bismarck is thought to be following with regard to the Turkish difficulties, and, in respect of the Powers, so out of harmony with the chivalrous character of the Emperor, that I feel sure Her Majesty's Ambassador is correct in his supposition that the Sultan, in making his assertion, if His Majesty did make it, must have been guilty of gross inaccuracy.

Prince Bismarck is credited, and no doubt properly, with a strong determination to avoid as far as possible becoming entangled in any complications which might produce a state of war in the East, and however difficult he might deem it to be for the Powers to refuse the Porte a hearing, if she petitioned them to give effect to the unexecuted clauses of the Berlin Treaty which are favourable to her, His Highness must be perfectly well aware that if Turkish troops, in virtue of the Treaty, appeared in the Balkans, the inevitable result would be what even Russia is now, at the eleventh hour, trying to prevent, an outbreak in Bulgaria, Roumelia, and Macedonia, in fact, the very complications which the Chancellor is striving to postpone for as long a time as he can, because such complications would almost necessarily compel Austria to adopt measures for protecting her own interests, and if Austria were in danger, Germany would be bound to support her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 76.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

E. MS. C.
(No. 514. Very Confidential.)

Berlin, November 6, 1880.

My Lord,

SINCE the return of the French Ambassador to Berlin I have had opportunities of talking to his Excellency upon the subject of the Porte's present attitude towards the Powers.

On one occasion in the course of conversation I happened to allude to the certainty of Germany and Austria following an identic policy in respect to Turkey, and added that both Powers, as well as France, seemed disinclined to go beyond the limits of diplomatic pressure with the view of obtaining from the Sultan the results desired by all the Powers in common.

I ventured at the same time to say I thought it was a great pity, just when the course which Her Majesty's Government had suggested should be followed by the Powers in order to show the Porte they were in earnest, was creating an impression, that certain Powers should have expressed an unwillingness to assent to the adoption of any measures having the appearance of coercion.

Upon my expressing a conviction that had it not been for the effect which the Smyrna project had produced on the Sultan, neither the French nor the German Ambassador would have succeeded in extracting from His Majesty even the promise as regards Dulcigno which still remained unfulfilled, Count St. Vallier did not actually deny that the two Ambassadors might have derived some slight advantage from the argument relating to the possible occupation of Smyrna by the Powers; but his Excellency seemed unwilling to attach too much importance to its value, and was evidently relieved by the idea that there would probably be no further question of employing force.

We then spoke about other matters of less importance, but before I left his Excellency, he reverted in a very marked way to my having, when referring to the certainty of Germany and Austria pursuing an identic policy in Turkish affairs, included France also.

I said that I recollected having done so, and that I had merely alluded to what I understood was now an acknowledged fact.

This was, Count St. Vallier admitted, no doubt the case; France certainly held with Germany and Austria that coercive measures against Turkey at the present crisis would produce a state of things the gravity of which could not be over-rated. The outcome of such a situation could scarcely fail to be other than that which England and the other Powers were so desirous of avoiding, and it was on this account that the application of coercion to Turkey was regarded by Germany, Austria, and France as a very dangerous expedient.

"But," his Excellency went on to say, "you must not for a moment imagine that because France holds this view in common with Germany and Austria, she has the slightest wish or intention of acting apart from England. Her great object has been, and still is, to work in concert with her 'oldest and best friend.'"

While speaking in this sense, Count St. Vallier, though his Excellency carefully abstained from using any expression which might be taken as a positive assertion, seemed anxious, I thought, to let it be inferred that of course there might be contingencies in which a total abstention from the use of coercion might not be looked upon as an imperative obligation by the French Cabinet; and I should not have thought it necessary to allude to this part of my conversation with the Ambassador, had it not been that his Excellency's remarks struck me as being perfectly in accord with the policy foreshadowed as possible for France by M. Challemel-Lacour, in his Excellency's conversations with the Prime Minister and your Lordship, as recorded in the despatches to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, which accompanied your Lordship's despatch No. 693 of the 27th ultimo

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 77.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

E MS. C.
(No. 515. Confidential.)

Berlin, November 6, 1880.

My Lord,

THE English newspapers, as well as those of other countries, have for some time past been calling attention to an alleged tendency on the part of Austria to pursue a Russian rather than a German policy as regards the questions pending between the Powers and Turkey.

Within the last two or three days the same papers which lately insisted on the correctness of their comments in the above sense, are now equally anxious to show that the relations between Germany and Austria were never more cordial.

This latter assertion is no doubt perfectly accurate, and I am quite unable to account for the first statement of the papers.

It is not of course unreasonable to suppose that the intimate alliance between the two Empires may not be altogether free from mutual embarrassments. Austria may dislike the idea of being regarded as dependent on Germany for assistance against her powerful Eastern neighbour, and Germany may perhaps feel somewhat compromised by the alliance, as it might oblige her to render aid at times when it was inconvenient to do so; but both parties to the alliance must feel that the drawbacks it may have, are of but little account in comparison with its evident advantages.

The relations between this country and Russia may not be so openly unfriendly as they were a year ago, nor is Russia now supposed to be intriguing, as was then the case, for the goodwill of France, or to be avowedly hostile to Austria. Italy also is showing less restlessness than she did a twelvemonth back.

As far, therefore, as outward appearances are concerned, the object of the alliance might seem to have lost some of its original importance; but although Germany and Austria may consider that any immediate coalition of Powers against either one or the other is less imminent than it was last year, both are aware that Russia at least is by no means favourably inclined towards either of them.

Germany will naturally endeavour to prevent France from entering into any alliances which might be used against the Empire, and as a precautionary measure against such a possible contingency, she is now acting towards Russia, and counselling Austria to act towards that Power, in such a manner as would facilitate a return to the "Dreikaiserbund."

The visible effect of this policy may not improbably have been more noticeable on the part of Austria than on the side of Germany; and this, perhaps, may have given rise to the observations and criticisms which appeared in the press. I am at a loss otherwise to account for them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 78.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.)

Cettinjé, November 8, 1880.

AS the [?] repetition by Dervish Pasha of the tactics hitherto observed by the Turks in North Albania is confirmed from all sides, it may not be unnecessary to bear in mind following points as connected with Dulcigno question:—

1. Mussulmans are a minority in North Albania.
2. Their supremacy is derived from their connection with Ottoman rule.
3. Resistance against this rule would transfer supremacy to the Christians.
4. All the real leaders of Scutari Committee are Mahommedans and Turkish functionaries entirely dependent on their posts.
5. No native Christian interest is touched by cession in question.
6. Complete knowledge of these points possessed by Mussulman natives, and, consequently, blind submission at the command of Porte.

On the other hand, Turkish Government ought not to lose sight of following facts:—

1. [?] strength developed by the Roman Catholic mountaineers in opposing the April Convention.

2. Independent attitude assumed by these mountaineers towards Ottoman authorities.

3. Almost insurmountable difficulty to military operations against mountaineers.

4. Facility with which these mountaineers may be induced to act against Turkish Government when money is forthcoming.

5. Valuable insurrectionary base of operations offered by Montenegro and [?] Albania.

[Several groups not decypherable.]

No. 79.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 8, 1880, 4·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1423A of the 28th ultimo, French Government agree that the formal and final separation of the combined squadrons would be unadvisable, and that the best plan would be that the several Admirals should be instructed to take separate cruizes with prearranged places of call for orders in case of necessity arising.

They object to promise made in July to the French Government about Greek question being alluded to as a reason for the squadrons not finally separating.

They have instructed their Minister at Athens to urge Greeks to keep quiet.

No. 80.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8, 10 P.M.)

(No. 223. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 8, 1880, 6·12 P.M.*

THE speeches of Baron Haymerle have produced a bad effect here; feelings have much changed during the last ten days, and now resemble more the warlike spirit of 1876.

In speaking to me to-day, Baron Jomini suggested very pointedly that an Anglo-Russian alliance would be most desirable.

Your Lordship will notice the change since a few days, when his Excellency had told me that Russia would not go, even to Smyrna, alone with England, for fear of offending her "big neighbours."

I avoided giving any direct reply to his Excellency's suggestion.

No. 81.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 517. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 667, in which it is stated that on Saturday, the 9th instant, the French Ambassador told the German Ambassador that he had the most urgent orders from Paris to urge the Porte to yield, and applied to Count Hatzfeldt to help him, to which request the German Ambassador answered that he could take no initiative, I have the honour to state that the information conveyed in it does not tally with the account of what is evidently the same incident as related to me by the French Ambassador himself. It was not the French Ambassador who received urgent instructions to take steps to induce the Sultan to yield, and who sought help of the German Ambassador; on the contrary, M. Tissot received information from his Government that Count Hatzfeldt had been instructed to make the most strenuous efforts to induce the Sultan to yield, while he only received instructions to support Count Hatzfeldt in case he should think it opportune to do so. Accordingly, on Friday, the 8th instant, and not on Saturday, as stated in the telegram, M. Tissot proceeded to the

German Embassy. I should, however, not omit to inform your Lordship, very confidentially, that, though not instructed to do so, M. Tissot, from a sense of personal loyalty to his English colleague, came to me before he went to Count Hatzfeldt, and informed me of the telegram which he had received. I naturally made a remark on the singularity of this isolated step taken by two Governments who were acting with us and whom we informed of all we did.

On M. Tissot calling at the German Embassy, Count Hatzfeldt gave him a cigarette, with the playful remark that it was made from a pound of tobacco which was all he had ever got out of the Sultan. M. Tissot replied: "You will soon have an opportunity of replenishing your stock." On Count Hatzfeldt looking surprised, M. Tissot said, "Have you not received instructions to see the Sultan?" After this preliminary fencing, the German Ambassador, finding that M. Tissot knew what his instructions were, explained that he had indeed received orders, but that he felt much embarrassed how to carry them out. He had informed his Government that it was useless to see the Foreign Minister, Assim Pasha, as it was difficult to make him clearly understand, and therefore more than doubtful whether what he was told would be intelligently transmitted to others. He had therefore told his Government that the only effectual way of carrying out his instructions to use his utmost efforts to make the Sultan yield was to ask for a special and formal audience of His Majesty. Was that their wish? The answer he received was that no such decided and pointed step was contemplated. He must do the best he could. Chance, he then added, had come to his assistance. A Secretary of the Sultan had called, and he had been able to speak strongly to him.

Under these circumstances, M. Tissot, who had full discretion whether to act or not, thought that no special steps were necessary on his part in support of the action of the German Ambassador.

M. Tissot asked Count Hatzfeldt whether he intended to communicate to his colleagues what he had done. M. Tissot was struck by Count Hatzfeldt's answer. He said, not without some little embarrassment, that it might be better not to tell everybody, as it might be in the general interest that a stop should not be put to confidential communications occasionally passing between himself and the Palace, or words to that effect.

I have thought it my duty to inform your Lordship of these very confidential communications made to me by my French colleague, as they suggest several very interesting inferences.

M. Tissot has seemed rather anxious that I should let the English Government know, but of course secretly, that it was neither the French Government nor himself who suggested or took what, in his opinion, as in mine, was very like isolated action.

I have seen the question raised whether France or Germany had made any promises to the Sultan to take effect if Dulcigno should be surrendered.

I cannot trace any such promises, and I feel very confident that, at any rate, they have not been made by France. Neither in the case of Germany should I think that any promises had been given, except, possibly, in the vaguest way, as, for instance, that it would be much to the advantage of Turkey to surrender on this one pressing point, and that Europe would take such action favourably into account.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 82.

E *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)*

(No. 522.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 31, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose two significant articles from the Turkish press, written with considerable vigour, and interesting, in so far as they represent the tone and general views of the Palace and the governing Pashas. The "Osmanli" is considered to be the organ of the Palace, the "Turdjimani Hakikat" that of the Prime Minister.

The article in the latter, directed specially against the English Embassy, has caused the suspension of the newspaper. An Aide-de-camp of the Sultan was sent with a special message to order this step.

Suspensions of newspapers here are not very serious. The Editor of the "Turdjimani Hakikat" may very probably be secretly encouraged while he is publicly warned.

I would not trouble your Lordship with articles simply reflecting the angry feelings at present entertained towards the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and the elation displayed at what is considered its present discomfiture, if there were not special points included which throw light on some parts of the plans, or at least the views of those who at present determine political events in Turkey. Nothing can be more significant than the parallel drawn between the Kurds and the Albanians in the article from the "Turdjimani Hakikat," and the remark about the relief to the refugees is also worth noting.

With reference to the spirit of this whole article, I ought, perhaps, to add that I have heard on good authority that Said Pasha declares his wish to assimilate the position of Ambassadors at Constantinople to that which they occupy in European capitals, and to destroy that special power and influence which they have always enjoyed in Turkey. It is said that efforts are being made to negotiate with the Foreign Cabinets through the Diplomatic Agents of Turkey abroad, whenever it can be done, but I am quite aware that nothing of this kind is seriously attempted in London. All these proceedings are part of the system which was pursued by Said Pasha before, when he and Sawas Pasha are reported to have boasted that "European hats" (as distinguished from the "fez") were no longer seen at the Porte; the fact being that the Ambassadors found it almost impossible to transact business with Sawas Pasha at all.

It would scarcely be out of place to suggest that the assignment of the post of Foreign Minister to a man like Assim Pasha, who, respectable as he is, is quite incompetent, especially in times like these, may be attributed to a desire to throw every impediment in the way of Ambassadorial action.

Many of my colleagues feel very strongly on the subject, and, as I have already reported to your Lordship, I think that the time may come when serious steps may have to be taken in consequence.

I do not think that it would be wise to move till either Dulcigno is surrendered, or till the Powers decide on some energetic step in consequence of its non-surrender. But afterwards it will, in my opinion, probably be expedient that I should take an early opportunity of demanding an audience of the Sultan, and point out how entirely the course of business recently has confirmed the view expressed by Her Majesty's Government that it is His Majesty himself who is directing, and who is consequently responsible for the present state of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 83.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 527.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 1, 1880.*

I HAVE for some time past been making inquiries with regard to the sale of Government lands in Epirus and Thessaly, in order to be able to supply your Lordship with some reliable information on the subject.

I happened to meet a gentleman who had himself been interested in the purchase of some of these lands, and who was able to tell me what was occurring.

Your Lordship telegraphed to me some time ago that it had been rumoured at Corfu that M. Zarifi, the great Greek banker at Constantinople, had bought all the Government property in the districts of Janina, Prevesa, and Arta. I understand that M. Zarifi, in conjunction with some others, had made large purchases of Government farms, but not of all the Government lands, which are considerable.

It does not appear, from any of the information which has been furnished to your Lordship and transmitted to me, that the sale of Government lands has been constantly going forward for years past in Epirus, yet such I understand has been the case.

The Turkish Government confiscated the estates of the famous Ali Pasha, and has since then always been a seller of farms. I further understand that much landed property has reverted to the Porte from intestate estates, so that its property available for sale has been increased from this further source.

Your Lordship must therefore not think that the sales of property of which complaint has been made by the Greek Government are something entirely new, and due only to the fact that the territory in question has been ceded to Greece. It is very probable that the sale has been more actively pushed both on account of this cession and for the sake of the funds which thus accrue to the Government at a moment of deep

embarrassment, but, as far as my information goes, it is simply the continuation of a system followed before.

Possibly these facts, with regard to which I may obtain further information in a few days' time, may somewhat modify the view your Lordship was inclined to take of the case on the reports which had reached the Foreign Office, and I would respectfully ask your Lordship to be allowed to delay for a few days longer acting on the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 584.

Your Lordship directs me to address a note to the Porte on the subject of these sales, and to hold language which, if I understand rightly, might compromise the titles of lands sold to individuals, and possibly paid for, before the protest now made had been received. The non-recognition of such titles would not affect the Porte, as they will have already received the money, but it might affect individuals very seriously, and give rise to abuses subsequently.

I venture to inquire whether it would not be right to limit the notification which I am directed to give to sales made subsequent to the receipt of the notice.

I would further ask your Lordship's attention to the point, that other Cabinets associated themselves with Her Majesty's Government in the verbal declarations which have been made respecting the willingness of the Powers to guarantee Mussulman property in the ceded districts. In view of this circumstance, I would venture to ask your Lordship whether I should not in the first instance consult with my colleagues as to making a joint notification in the sense of the instructions now given me, rather than that Her Majesty's Government should alone take the step of intervening in this matter, which, to judge from the reply made on behalf of the Turkish Government to the Greek Circular, is likely to excite much feeling.

I trust your Lordship will be good enough to excuse my raising the foregoing question before carrying it out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—I ought to have added, with reference to the purchase by M. Zarifi, that I understand it never took effect. The purchase-money amounted to about 90,000*l.* Of this 60,000*l.* was to be set off against a debt due by the Government to M. Zarifi, and 30,000*l.* more was paid in cash. But the Government raised difficulties as to executing the sale, wishing to put the property up to auction, and in the meantime M. Zarifi and his friends have not been repaid the 30,000*l.* This at least was the account I received of the transaction some weeks ago.

G. J. G.

No. 84.

E *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)*

(No. 534.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 2, 1880.*

I HAVE little to add to what I wrote to your Lordship on the 27th ultimo, relating to the cession of Dulcigno.

Dervish Pasha's arrival, though expected to take place on Saturday evening, was not known at the Porte yesterday afternoon (Monday), nor have I heard from Mr. Green or Captain Sale by telegraph that he has as yet reached his destination. Meanwhile, your Lordship has heard from Mr. Green by telegraph that the Albanians have been active, and that Riza Pasha has displayed very great weakness.

I have received the same information from my Italian and Russian colleagues, whose Consuls are still at Scutari.

I inclose a copy of the news given me by Count Corti.

Opinions still remain divided as to the real wishes and secret intentions of the Sultan with regard to the surrender.

There are many who still are sceptical as to the sincerity of His Majesty, and some who, while convinced that he means to yield in the end, believe that the interminable delays are welcomed by him, or even encouraged, as they have the very practical result of fatiguing the Powers. I have elsewhere written of the intense satisfaction expressed by the Turks at the success of their tactics. They have wearied out Europe. They have got off with the surrender of Dulcigno, and believe that the frontier east of the Lake of Scutari is a matter which the Powers will cease to take up seriously. Why should they hurry now to complete the surrender even of Dulcigno?

The German Ambassador and his staff dined with the Sultan on Saturday. Count Hatzfeldt tells me that little passed of any political interest, except that the Sultan made the singular remark that it seemed as if the Albanians had never thoroughly understood his wishes.

He thought that if the subject had been thoroughly explained to them they might have consented to the transfer sooner. Count Hatzfeldt did not fail to make a fitting reply.

On receiving your Lordship's telegram, to the effect that Count Corti had received instructions to bring the latest proceedings of Riza Pasha to the notice of the Porte, and to join with his colleagues in most energetic pressure to bring the Porte to the fulfilment of its engagement, I telegraphed back that I considered it useless to take any steps at the moment, except some distinct consequences were to follow if the Porte refused to comply. I may state, confidentially, that Count Corti quite shared my views.

Diplomatic pressure is clearly exhausted, and after the repeated promises which have been made and broken, and the explanations which have been given, but have been falsified, further attempts to persuade or impress the Porte would be almost undignified, and nothing, in my judgment, remains except to await the result of Dervish Pasha's mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 84.

M. Serboni to Count Corti.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, le 27 Octobre*, 1880, 7 P.M.

HIER, à 2 heures après-midi, Riza Pasha s'est rendu avec 2,000 hommes et canons au Pont de St. Georges pour marcher sur Dulcigno. Il y avait là 100 insurgés qui ont menacé de faire feu s'il osait s'avancer, et une estafette était dépêchée à la ville pour les avertir. Après presque deux heures de pourparlers accoururent de Dulcigno et de la montagne plus de 1,500 insurgés. Riza Pacha * * * * * * * * et l'a supplié de se retirer s'il ne voulait pas que le sang coule. Riza Pacha alors a donné l'ordre aux siens de se retirer, et est allé à Fracan, à une demi-heure de distance. Aujourd'hui les affaires du Bazar de Scutari sont totalement suspendues, le bazar est presque fermé, une masse de peuple armée d'ici, et des villages, se dirige sur Dulcigno. On calcule que si ce mouvement continue, dans deux jours il y aura plus de 7,000 hommes là-bas. On avait fait des tentatives pour empêcher le passage des volontaires, mais on a dû s'en abstenir devant la supériorité de nombre.

On a aujourd'hui dispensé à tous les Consulats une déclaration envoyée par le Comité de Défense de Dulcigno, dans laquelle il est dit que l'on est résolu de se battre avec les Monténégrins aussi bien qu'avec les Turcs, ne voulant se soumettre conditionnellement à aucun prix.

No. 85.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

E
(No. 535.)

Therapia, November 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 520 of the 30th ultimo, and to your Lordship's despatch No 544 of the 1st ultimo, referring to the adhesion of the Porte to the Acts elaborated by the various Boundary Commissions instituted under the Treaty of Berlin, I have the honour to state that I have called the attention of the Porte to the matter, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions.

I am informed, in reply, that the Porte, having transmitted the necessary documents to the Palace for the Imperial sanction, is now awaiting the Sultan's iradé, authorizing it to adhere to the Acts in question.

On a representation being made to the Prime Minister on the subject in the course of last week, he promised to press the matter at the Palace in order to avoid further delay.

All the Representatives of the Great Powers have been urging the Ottoman Government to signify its assent at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 86.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 707. Extender.)

Buda-Pesth, November 1, 1880.

My Lord,

BEFORE Baron Haymerle sends instructions to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues upon the mode of dealing with the Turkish financial question, he wishes to ascertain Baron Calice's opinion upon it.

He does not believe that it will be easy to induce the Turkish Government to nominate a Commission such as was indicated in Protocol No. 18 of the Congress of Berlin, and, as their Plenipotentiaries distinctly declined to accept the proposal at the Congress, he considers it impossible to maintain that they are under any obligation to do so, however desirable it may be, but he would be glad to be informed of the scope that it is proposed to give to the Commission which it is wished to appoint.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 87.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

E
(No. 708. Confidential.)

Pesth, November 2, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING a confidential conversation that I had with Baron Haymerle yesterday, he observed that, as soon as Dulcigno was given up, he hoped that the tension in which the affairs of Turkey had kept Europe might come to an end.

I remarked that he must not forget that there were other questions, and especially that of the Greek frontier, which would have to be dealt with, and that the difficulty in regard to them could not be expected to be less than that which had been experienced about Dulcigno.

He replied that the Powers must certainly maintain the position they had taken at the Conference of Berlin respecting the extension to be given to Greece, but after the experience we had had of the resistance of Turkey to the most trifling territorial cessions, he would deprecate any attempt at this moment to insist upon sacrifices which it would not be possible to obtain from her except by measures threatening the tranquillity of the whole of the East. What was now most required was a breathing-time which would allow the excited feeling prevailing throughout the East to calm down.

I reminded him that the Greeks are making every effort to collect an army, which by the spring would probable be brought to 60,000 men, and I asked whether he thought it probable that after making such an exertion, and at so great a cost, they would not endeavour to take possession of the territory assigned to them.

He could not deny that this was probable, but said that the spring was still far distant, and that no good would be done by agitating the question prematurely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

E
(No. 710. Very Confidential.)

Pesth, November 4, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. GOSCHEN, in his Very Confidential despatch No. 400, spoke of a kind of invitation, reported to have been sent to the Sultan by the Emperor of Germany, to raise the question of the unexecuted parts of the Treaty of Berlin which told in favour of Turkey, especially as regards the occupation of the Balkans, upon which Austria and Germany were disposed to back his rights.

It has frequently been said that the Austro-Hungarian Government wished to see Turkish garrisons sent to the Balkans, but whenever I have spoken to Baron Haymerle on the subject, and I have done so frequently, he has declared that he would look upon such a step as ill-judged and undesirable, but he invariably added that the Sultan's right

to do so under the Treaty was too plain to be called in question, and that it was essential that it should be maintained, so that it might be exercised if circumstances should render it necessary, by which I understood him to allude to an insurrectionary or Unionist movement becoming imminent.

If such a movement were to break out, it is likely that the Austro-Hungarian Government would advise the Sultan at once to occupy the Balkans, and they believe that all the parties to the Treaty of Berlin would be bound to recognize a right which they had conceded to His Majesty for the express purpose of preventing a violent disturbance of their arrangements.

I am not in a position to express an opinion whether the Austro-Hungarian Government would at present wish the Porte to raise the question of the unexecuted parts of the Treaty which tell in favour of Turkey, but I rather incline to the impression that they would not; their eager desire being that, as soon as the Dulcigno question is settled, there should be a moment for breathing, in which they hope that the soothing influence of time would be beneficially felt.

Your Lordship is, however, aware that they have throughout considered that the policy hitherto followed had been one-sided, by the concerted action and pressure of Europe being exerted only in respect to those parts of the Treaty which Turkey had left unexecuted; though the others which were in her favour, and were, in their estimation, of far greater European importance, had been equally disregarded.

I have already informed your Lordship of Count Andrassy's opinion upon this subject, and I have since been assured by him that no support that he could have given Baron Haymerle in the secret sitting of the Commission of the Delegations would have sufficed to secure an approval of the policy of the Government if the Minister had not been understood to intimate that, with the settlement of the Dulcigno question, armed demonstration would cease as far as this country is concerned.

Looking, therefore, to the future, it must, I think, be assumed that, in the other questions to be dealt with, diplomatic pressure at Constantinople would be the utmost co-operation to be obtained from Austria-Hungary, and I cannot even say that I regard it as impossible that, if this were proposed, there might not be a disposition to raise the question of the carrying out of the Treaty in its integrity.

I must beg your Lordship to understand that I speak with the utmost diffidence of the course which may be followed by the Imperial Government; but, since I have been at Pesth, I have had opportunities of seeing how general is the desire of the political men of both sections of the Monarchy that their Government should identify itself no further in coercive action, and I have thought it my duty to convey to you my general impression of the effect it may produce.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 89.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 713.)
My Lord, *Pesth, November 5, 1880.*

THE first public sitting of the Austrian Delegations took place yesterday, when the Budget of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was under consideration, and afforded an opportunity to Baron Hubner to pronounce a long and very carefully-prepared speech.

Commenting on the course that had been followed by the Government, he declared that there was no such thing as an "Eastern question," unless the Powers chose to create it, and that the best thing now to be done was to unite all the Treaty Powers in agreeing to adjourn the consideration of it.

Baron Haymerle replied that, while his Government would do all in their power to avoid complications, he could not admit that their total effacement, as recommended by Baron Hubner, was desirable, as it would be calculated to split Europe into two groups, which would cause more dangerous complications, and their object had therefore been not to divide the Powers, but to follow the programme of some of them, especially of two, which might form a centre around which the others might group themselves, and it was in the nature of such a concert that everything should not turn exactly as one or other of the parties to it might wish.

It might be that a non-intervention policy was the right one; but it was only possible if other Governments followed it also.

It was contrary to the interests of any nation that there should be conflagration in its immediate neighbourhood, nor would it have been a matter of indifference to the Austrian Government to see foreign Governments taking action upon the very frontier of the Empire.

With regard to Greece, the Minister said that her aspirations had the sympathy of the Imperial Government, but they had never assumed the responsibility of obtaining for her the new frontier, which had not been laid down as a line to be enforced ("zwangslinie"), but as one upon which to mediate, and for the carrying out of which the Powers are as little pledged as to any of the other provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have directed a translation of his Excellency's speech to be prepared for your Lordship, but, in the sketch that I have given of it, there are two points which will not fail to attract your attention: the one is, that Baron Haymerle made no attempt to justify his participation in the Dulcigno demonstration, on the ground of the measure being in itself desirable, but defended it only as being necessary for the maintenance of the concert; the other point relates to his remark about the Greek frontier question, for the declaration of the Minister, that the Powers were no more pledged to see it settled than any of the other provisions of the Treaty, appears like a public announcement to the Parliament and the country of a determination not to take part in coercive measures to secure it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 90.

Consul Sanderson to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, November 2, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 18th ultimo, respecting the departure of Greek volunteers, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a further party of about 250 left Galatz this morning in the British steamer "Hoopoe" for Greece.

There now remain at Galatz about 160, for whom a passage has to be provided, and about 50 at Sulina. It does not seem likely that this number will be increased, as the Committee are coming to an end of their funds, and some of the volunteers sent by previous boats went no further than Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 91.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

E
(No. 1041. Extender.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 8, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1423A of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I asked M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon what were the views of the French Government as to the instructions to be given to the commanders of the combined fleet, in case the cession of Dulcigno should be accomplished.

At the same time, I stated to his Excellency the views of Her Majesty's Government in the words of your Lordship's despatch.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that he could authorize me to inform your Lordship that the French Government agreed with the Government of Her Majesty in thinking that, on the one hand, it was not desirable that the several squadrons should be kept actually together after the Dulcigno affair was settled, while, on the other hand, their formal and final separation would have a bad political effect.

His Excellency added that I might also inform your Lordship that the French Government concurred in the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, that the several Admirals should be instructed to take separate cruises, with prearranged places of call for orders, in case of the necessity arising.

His Excellency concluded by saying that these were the opinions of the French

Government, but that in this as in all matters they desired to act in concert with all the five Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 92.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 1042.) *Paris, November 8, 1880.*
My Lord,

IN your Lordship's despatch No. 1423A of the 28th ultimo, it is mentioned that the formal and final separation of the combined fleet would not be in accordance with the assurance given to the French Government by the Powers in July last, that they would be ready to act for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question in the same manner as for Montenegro.

On my reciting these words in the conversation of which a report is made in my immediately preceding despatch, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said at once that he must object to this promise being assigned as one of the reasons against the final separation of the squadrons.

The case of the Greek frontier was, his Excellency said, very different from that of Dulcigno. A naval demonstration would be wholly inadequate in the Greek case; and at any rate, the French Government could not consent to any measure which could be construed as pledging them to use their naval forces for settling the question of the Greek frontier.

His Excellency went on to mention the mission of M. de Radowitz to Athens. The French Government, he said, quite concurred in the opinion of the Government of Germany, that it was most important that the Greeks should be prevented from taking any rash step. An invasion of Turkey by Greece might give rise to the most dangerous complications. The Greeks were, it would seem, trying to "force the hand" of Europe by crossing the frontier, at the risk of being crushed by the Turks. The French Government had sent instructions to their Representative at Athens to urge the Greeks in the strongest terms to be patient and keep quiet, and had desired him to make them understand that if they rushed upon a contest with Turkey they would do so at their own risk and peril.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 93.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 352.) *Therapia, November 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

VICE-CONSUL at Van telegraphs that he has been told confidentially that the Armenians are preparing for revolt, that the Czar had promised assistance, and wishes movement to begin before winter. He adds that this may not be correct, but movement not improbable as people are getting desperate, and rumours from all sides point to something stirring.

No. 94.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 353.) *Therapia, November 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

I PRESENTED the Right Honourable Mr. Smith to the Sultan to-day, and had a private audience afterwards. Sultan told me that Dervish Pasha summoned meeting of Chiefs of Albanian League yesterday; two delegates from Dulcigno were also present. The meeting unanimously resolved to send a message to Dulcigno that surrender must take place. His Majesty was hourly expecting to learn result, and counted firmly on favourable termination. On the other hand, I gathered that Sultan would not in any case order Albanians to be fired upon. He seemed exceedingly anxious to succeed in effecting surrender. He declared that such an act would put him wrong with all his subjects. Short of this he explained all the promises made to persuade the Albanians, and added that he feared his wishes and intentions had never been explicitly and thoroughly explained to the Albanians. He hoped confidently to be able to send me good news to-morrow.

No. 95.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9, 8 A.M.)

(No. 354.) *Therapia, November 8, 1880, midnight.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 353, the Sultan told me that he earnestly hoped that he might be able to communicate to me the news of the surrender of Dulcigno sufficiently early for Mr. Gladstone to announce it in his speech to-morrow night. After I had left his room he sent after me to say that if news did not reach Constantinople in time, he begged me to ask Mr. Gladstone or your Lordship to state that His Majesty entertained the strongest hopes that the surrender would take place immediately. Your Lordship will judge if it is safe to act on this suggestion, looking to the news sent from Cettinjé and Scutari, and to the fact that coercion will clearly not be used. The Sultan, I think, is in earnest as to his hopes. He wishes to surrender, but still, as before, by some pacific means only.

No. 96.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 355.) *Therapia, November 9, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 354, I have just received note from Sultan's Secretary, dated last night, containing following passage:—

"Up till now no news has arrived from Scutari, but successive telegrams, which the Commandant of that place has sent yesterday and the day before, are such as to induce hope ("à faire espérer") that the news expected to-night or to-morrow will be very satisfactory."

I am asked to telegraph in this sense; this communication being made in writing will show your Lordship precisely what it may be safe to say.

No. 97.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9, 11 P.M.)

(No. 152.) *Cettinjé, November 9, 1880, 2 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRIN Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed my colleagues and me that from information coming from Scutari it appears that notables of Dulcigno are once again making use of the Italian Consul to evade orders of the Turkish Commander-in-chief. It would be well if the Italian Government would give him temporary leave of absence, so as to prevent Turks from putting him forward as a cause of the delay. Further threats have been made by the Albanian Pasha against the Montenegrin border villages, but advanced season deprives them of importance.

(Sent to Mr. Goschen.)

No. 98.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 735.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1880.*
Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to thank Baron Haymerle for the communication of the summary, inclosed in your despatch No. 691 of the 27th ultimo, of the reports of the Austro-Hungarian Agents relative to the number of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers in Bulgaria, and the imports of arms and ammunition, and to assure him that it shall be considered as confidential.

I have at the same time to state that your Excellency is at liberty to communicate

confidentially to Baron Haymerle the inclosed Report on the subject made to Mr. Goschen by Lieutenant Vincent, of the Coldstream Guards.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 99.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 571.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1880.*

IN your despatch No. 475 of the 12th ultimo, you report a conversation which took place with Baron Jomini relative to the proposed action of the fleets off Smyrna, and I approve your having stated that your instructions did not warrant you in giving categorical answers to the questions put to you by his Excellency as to the line which Her Majesty's Government might adopt in certain contingencies.

I have also to approve the language which you held to Baron Jomini in reply to his allusion to the alleged proceedings of Russia in regard to the Eastern Roumelian militia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 100.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 583.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1880.*

I APPROVE the language which you held to Baron Jomini, as reported in your despatch No. 476 of the 13th ultimo in defence of the representations which Her Majesty's Government have thought it necessary to make on account of the presence of Russian officers in the Balkan Peninsula.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 101.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 123. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 30, 1880.*

WITH reference to my Report to your Lordship No. 117 of the 24th instant, upon the situation of affairs in Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I received this morning from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, giving an account of the capture by brigands of Arif Bey, the President of the Municipal Council of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, October 27, 1880.*

ON the 17th instant Arif Bey, the owner of the Aketchi estate, called here to consult me as to the best means of settling his land dispute with the British subject, Mr. Cassavetti, the proprietor of the Aidin estate, in the district of Armyro. I advised him, in answer, to visit the ground in person, with the Registrar of Title-deeds, and endeavour there to come to a clear understanding with Mr. Cassavetti's agents as to the rightful ownership of the field in dispute.

* See Part LIV. Inclosure 1 in No. 530.

Arif Bey consequently left Larissa on the 18th instant, and on the 19th, as he was passing the heights between Vellestino and Aidin, escorted by four cavalry soldiers, and accompanied by the Registrar of Title-deeds, his Turkish solicitor, and the Mahommedan member of the Armyro Council, he was attacked by a band of Vlach-Albanian brigands, and after two of the troopers had been killed and the other two severely wounded, the horses of his carriage were shot, and the whole of his party was captured and carried off to the mountains.

Nothing certain has been heard of them since, but there is a rumour that the brigands will demand a ransom of 10,000*l.* for Arif Bey's release.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 102.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 124. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 31, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the following further outrages which have been perpetrated by brigands in Macedonia within the last ten days:—

Yesterday morning a messenger arrived from Roumluk, a plain in the district of Carraferia (Greek "Veria"), with the intelligence that three bands of brigands composed of native Greeks, under the Chiefs Teham, Zarkadi, and Ghiorghi, attacked on Thursday evening, the 28th instant, the "tchiftlik" (farm) of Tchinar-furno, and, after plundering the houses of the tenants (all Greek), and killing two Turks—one a servant of the tchiftlik, and the other a policeman carrying Government despatches—seized and took away with them five hostages (two women and three men), for whose ransom they ask 2,500*l.*

They have also sent a letter to the owner of the farm, Kerim Effendi, requisitioning 1,000*l.*, and threatening to burn his property should he not comply with their demand.

The farm in question is about six hours distant from Salonica, and not very far from the four farms owned by three British subjects, namely, Colonel Synge, Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, and Mr. James Rogotti.

Kerim Effendi is one of the principal landowners in Macedonia, and this is not the first outrage which he has suffered from the brigands. In March last, when I was at Catterina, looking after Colonel Synge, a band of robbers pillaged one of his estates in that district, and destroyed property valued at 2,000*l.*!

Private intelligence has also been received here to the effect that nine days ago a large band of brigands, under the notorious Chief Catarachia, waylaid and carried off the Kaimakam (Sub-Governor) of Castoria, with the Cadi and a member of the Medjliss of that district!

About the same time another band, composed of Bulgarians, attacked the farm owned by the United States' Vice-Consul at Salonica, and situate in the district of Serres. My colleague states that they tortured his steward, a Greek, and robbed him of about 100*l.*

These frequently-recurring outrages have caused great sensation among all classes, and I now hear that at a meeting of the leading landowners, privately held yesterday evening at this place for the purpose of taking some action in the matter, it was decided to petition telegraphically the Sultan and his Ministers to intervene for the protection of of the inhabitants of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 103.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 125. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a telegram which has been received by the Governor-General of Salonica from the Mutessarif

(Lieutenant-Governor) of Serres, and published in the "Selanik"—the official gazette of this vilayet—relative to the demarcation of the frontier-line between Bulgaria and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Extract from the "Selanik" Gazette of October 28, 1880.

(Traduction.)

LE Mutessarif de Serres a récemment télégraphié au Gouverneur-Général de Salonique qu'on a fixé les limites de la plus grande partie de frontières entre le Vilayet de Salonique et la Principauté Bulgare, et surtout les limites des lieux en litige, et qu'on y a placé des gardes frontières de manière que les difficultés qui existaient en ce qui concerne les villages et la répartition des impôts ont disparues.

A cause de la saison avancée de l'année on a été obligé de remettre à l'année prochaine la démarcation des frontières dans les districts montagneux.

No. 104.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 127. Political.)

Salonica, November 1, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 124 of the 31st ultimo, reporting further outrages which have been committed by the brigands in Macedonia, I have the honour to transmit herewith translated extract from a letter from my correspondent at Monastir, giving the particulars of the capture by brigands of the Kaïmakam (Sub-Governor) of Castoria, a district in the Vilayet of Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No 104.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Monastir, dated October 28, 1880.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Friday last, the 22nd instant, Salih Effendi, the Kaïmakam (Sub-Governor) of Castoria; Mehmed Effendi, the "Tapou-Meïmouri" (Registrar of Title-deeds) of Bitolia (Monastir); Beïloul Bey, of Castoria; and a Christian and Jewish member of the Medjliss of that town, five functionaries in all, while going from Castoria to the village of Bourboskin (Crown property) for the purpose of assessing the taxes, were attacked by no less than eighty brigands. A conflict ensued, and after nine soldiers of the Kaïmakam's escort were killed and wounded, he and the other four functionaries surrendered to the brigands, who, the next day, sent a letter to Castoria demanding no less than 25,000*l.* for their ransom.

Brigandage in these parts has taken dreadful proportions. What can the poor people expect when their Governors are thus attacked and carried off?

No. 105.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

E

(No. 128. Political. Confidential.)

Salonica, November 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been privately informed that my Austro-Hungarian colleague here, M. de Montlong, has been quietly making inquiries about the number and condition of the large storehouses on the Salonica quay, and that he visited, a few days ago, the large

quarantine establishment on the coast of Cape Cara, opposite to, and about 7 miles from, the port of Salonica.

M. de Montlong also twice visited, during the last three months, the towns of Kiupruli, Uscup, and Mitrovitza.

My Austrian colleague at Monastir has been travelling a good deal in that vilayet. He went twice in the course of the last six weeks to the town of Ochrida.

My informant suspects that the movements and inquiries of these Austro-Hungarian Consuls-General are connected with some eventual military project of their Government in these parts.

Although I have not sufficient grounds for sharing this suspicion, I have thought it right to report the information to your Lordship.

I should, however, add that the prospect of an early advance of the Austro-Hungarian troops in this direction is freely discussed by foreigners and natives here; even the Turks are becoming familiarized with the subject, and apprehend that the anarchy which is growing apace in this and contiguous provinces may eventually afford a pretext to the Austrians for marching down to Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 106.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 129. Political. Confidential.)

Salonica, November 1, 1880.

My Lord,

THE inclosed letter, which I have this day received from Kustendil, in Bulgaria, is of some interest as throwing light upon the state of affairs in the frontier districts of that Principality.

The author of the letter is well known to me, and has occasionally furnished me with useful information on passing events in my Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Letter from Kustendil, in Bulgaria, dated October 19, 1880.

(Extrait.)

J'Ai vu dans le chemin de Comanova et de Palanga plusieurs charrettes pleines de "muhadjirs" Turcs (réfugiés) venant se repatrier en Bulgarie à qui on rend leurs propriétés, pas sans peine pourtant.

J'ai été bien renseigné pendant mon voyage, par des Bulgares même, que plusieurs bandes de brigands Bulgares ravagent les villages Turcs de Comanova et Palanga et environs.

En entrant dans les environs de Kustendil je les ai vu de mes yeux. Il y avait une bande d'une quinzaine; tous presque étaient habillés de même; bien armés d'une grande épée, revolver, et fusil Martini.

Les villageois Bulgares leur font des grands honneurs. Ils les nomment "Les Sauveurs."

Plusieurs de ces brigands se promènent dans Kustendil librement avec grande pompe, adonnés à la paresse et à l'ivresse.

Leur Comité Central est à Kustendil même.

Les Israélites m'ont assurés que c'est le Gouvernement Bulgare qui les encourage.

Tous les bazaars dans toute la Bulgarie se font maintenant le Samedi, afin que les Israélites n'y prennent part. C'est la seule ressource que ceux-ci avaient parce qu'ils sont tous des boutiquiers.

Mais la population Bulgare, pourtant, n'est point satisfaite de cette réforme, parce qu'elle est obligée d'acheter les objets à des autres à des double prix; et c'est pour cela que beaucoup des villageois arrivent en ville les Vendredis ou Dimanches à faire leurs achats, lorsque les Israélites ont leurs boutiques ouvertes.

On voit partout un grand mouvement militaire—les Russes en tête. Partout des casernes et des soldats, comme si le pays était à la veille d'une guerre.

No. 107.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

E

(No. 339. Political.)

Cettinjé, November 3, 1880.

My Lord,

THE reports which have been current during the last few days of Albanian incursions on Montenegrin territory have caused the Prince to converse frequently with me on the subject of the present state of things, and the possibility of a future satisfactory settlement on his southern borders.

His Highness confirmed to me what I had heard from Albanian sources at Scutari, that the Christian Rayahs to the north of Ipek and Jacova are now hunted and shot down by their Mahommedan fellow-countrymen like wild beasts, and that consequently most of the survivors have sought safety on Montenegrin territory. This has not only imposed another heavy charge on the already embarrassed finances of the Principality, the refugees being without the means of subsisting themselves, but has also now subjected Montenegro to attacks from the Mahommedans in question.

I have urged His Highness to bear in mind that just at present the Porte is in course of carrying out certain measures which it declares will terminate in the peaceable surrender of the Dulcigno territories, and that, consequently, any fresh controversy raised up by Montenegro might afford the Turkish Government a pretext for receding from its alleged intentions, and on the ground that the Prince's Government is insatiable, and had better be resisted from the commencement than after endless concessions had been made to it.

Prince Nicholas replied that he was determined the Powers should never be able to accuse him of being unworthy of their support, for he would follow blindly their collective wishes, and whilst personally convinced that the Turks are only trifling with Europe, act the part which has been assigned to him of having to believe, each time afresh, the last promises of the Porte as conclusive and trustworthy. For this reason he now refrained from making an official representation of the incursions on his territory near Kolascin and Gusinjé, and of the advance of the Turkish troops in the Kraïna, to the west of Lake, Scutari. The patience of the Montenegrins had been tried so long by the Turks that at all events, the former would now be careful not to repel the aggressors until the locality from which they would have to be driven should be, beyond doubt, Montenegrin.

The Prince then explained to me that some of the foreign Representatives here had been strongly recommending him lately, in face of the dilatoriness of the action of the Powers, and which is fast reducing the Principality to bankruptcy, to publicly renounce his claims to the Dulcigno and other districts which still remain in the hands of the Turks, and His Highness admitted that two weeks ago he was on the point of following their advice.

To this I answered that the step contemplated would probably have relieved the Powers of a great anxiety, but that, perhaps, it would not have helped to improve the position of the Principality. I allowed that one of the reasons which had always made me view with satisfaction the territorial extension of His Highness' possessions was the knowledge that his people would thereby learn to understand their responsibilities towards their neighbours and the rest of the world, and that they would cease to be ready, on the slightest encouragement, to espouse the quarrels or assist the ambitious views of this or that Government.

Had Montenegro two weeks ago consented to assume the position it had occupied before the late war, the probability is, I went on to say, that the Prince would have already discovered that the decision could not be viewed by many as a pledge of its peaceful intentions.

The advisers who had prompted the step would become known, and as relief had been afforded by it to Turkey, the resumption by the Principality of the part of a revolutionary instrument could not possibly be accepted as anything else but as a menace against the present holder of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

I left His Highness to judge what kind of future such a state of things would prepare, not only for his country, but for himself and dynasty.

He agreed with me that the course of blind obedience to the collective guidance of the Great Powers is the safest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 108.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 31. Political.)

"Alexandra," Theodo Bay, Callaro, November 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Report received from Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., who visited the Montenegrin outposts in the direction of Dulcigno on the 19th instant.

The estimate of the strength of the Albanians therein given is derived from Montenegrin sources, and is, I think, considerably over the mark.

Since the date of the inclosed Report, Riza Pasha has returned to Scutari.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Lieutenant Caillard to Captain Sale.

Antivari, November 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have visited Kounia, in order to observe the Albanian position, and report the result to you.

My information as to the numbers and recent movements of both the Albanians and Riza Pasha is naturally drawn from Montenegrin sources only.

There is no visible alteration in the Albanian position from the state in which I reported it about a month ago, after the reconnaissance which was made, in company with several foreign naval officers, on board Her Majesty's ship "Helicon."

The Albanians have fortified the crest of the Mazura with detached forts along about half its length, one fort being thrown right across the road leading over the Mazura from Kounia to Dulcigno. They hold also both the other roads to Dulcigno from Kounia.

The forts, as far as I could observe with a field glass, consist of walls roughly built of stone; they would probably be quite effective against any musketry fire, but could not stand for any time against well-directed artillery fire. Inside of each fort there are one or two huts, but the numbers of the Albanians cannot be judged from these, as they have for the most part dug their dwelling places out of the earth.

When Riza Pasha lately advanced with regular troops from Scutari towards Dulcigno, numbers of Albanians are reported to have left Mazura and gone down to take up a position at the Bridge of San Georgio, on Veli Gorana, and at Bria.

The Albanians are at present scattered along a line commencing at Kalimun, following the stream Rieka as far as the Bridge of San Georgio, and directed thence on the crest of the Mazura, which it follows to the sea. This line is not held in equal strength everywhere, but in most parts is so disposed that several hundred Albanians could be collected at a few minutes' notice on any given point. The strongest parts on the line now are said to be Mazura, the Bridge of San Georgio, Veli Gorana, and Bria.

The Montenegrin officer in command of the outpost at Kounia informed me, however, that it is very difficult to say positively how many Albanians are actually collected at any given point, as they are continually shifting. A scare that the Montenegrins are coming will cause the force on Mazura to be at least doubled immediately, and a report that the Turks are advancing will send them down from the Mazura to strengthen the lower parts of the line. He estimates their whole number at 6,000 strong; reinforcements are reported to be still arriving.

On Tuesday last Riza Pasha advanced from Scutari, and taking the troops at Goriča with him on his way, arrived at Bela with six battalions of Turkish nizams and some mountain guns (it is believed from six to ten). He is reported to have endeavoured to advance across the Rieka, but found the Bridge of San Georgio burnt, and the opposite bank of the stream held by the Albanians.

It is worth remarking that the water at present in that part of the Rieka is caused by an overflow from the Boyana; the upper parts of the stream being still quite dry, and that, therefore, if Riza Pasha took his troops further up the stream, he would easily get over the bridge difficulty, and, moreover, if he judged his time skilfully, would probably find less Albanians to oppose him. Such a movement would also facilitate combined action between the Montenegrins and the Turks, if such were desired.

At present the Turkish troops do not seem to be aiding in the practical settlement

of the affair in any very material way. The Albanians are still drawing all their supplies from Scutari; they convey them along the Boyana to San Nicolo, and thence onward by land. I do not think that the stopping of this flow of supplies would be any very difficult task for the Turkish troops, and it would probably produce a very considerable effect, both materially and morally, on the Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) V. H. P. CAILLARD.

No. 109.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 10, 1880, 8·50 P.M.*

COLONEL OTTOLENGHI telegraphs from Scutari that he and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé, who had come to meet him, are firmly convinced that there is not the remotest chance of Dulcigno being given up.

No. 110.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 586.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 10, 1880.*

I APPROVE the language which you have held to your German and Austrian colleagues relative to the policy which Her Majesty's Government are pursuing towards Turkey, as reported in your despatch No. 517 of the 3rd instant, and I trust that you made it clear to them that our object is to maintain in the possession of the Sultan the territory which was intended to be reserved to His Majesty by the Treaty of Berlin, subject to the fulfilment of the general conditions of that instrument.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 111.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

E C.
(No. 341. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 4, 1880.*

M. COUMOUNDOUROS told me yesterday the Government hoped that, when the united squadron now on the Albanian coast had finished the business for which it was sent there, and had brought about the surrender of Dulcigno to Montenegro, it would make a demonstration in favour of the Greek claims on Thessaly and Epirus.

At all events, his Excellency added, as soon as the object which took the fleet to Cattaro had been attained, the Greek Government would ask the Powers what steps they proposed to take in order to carry out the award of the Berlin Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 112.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 716.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 8, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, in translation, a Report, taken from the "Wiener Zeitung," of Baron Haymerle's late speech at Pesth (November 4) upon the foreign relations and foreign policy of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Extract from the "Wiener Zeitung" of November 5, 1880.

(Translation.)

BARON HAYMERLE, Minister of Foreign Affairs.—"Although it is late, and I have not been called upon by any distinct question or interpellation, I rise to reply to the last speech. A Minister of Foreign Affairs must feel strongly tempted to avoid the task of speaking at all upon so wide a theme as that which has been traced for me, for it embraces so many questions upon which his expressions must be carefully guarded. The initiative in this debate, which is full of interest, and, I must confess, of temptation to me, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, was assumed by Baron Hübner. The chief point of his speech was that, as complications were to be feared, he hoped the Government would strive to postpone the settlement of the Eastern question. I am strongly impressed, like the majority of European statesmen, with the conviction that the interests of Europe and the interests of the populations of the Balkan Peninsula require us to avoid complications and to hold back all precipitate action. I need not begin by assuring you that the Government will strive not only to avoid the occurrence of complications, but also to render them harmless if they should occur. The measure which Baron Hübner indicated to us does not seem to me to offer the best means of effecting the avoidance of these complications, because the speaker went on to divide the European Powers into two groups, and to assume that they had divergent interests, and would support these interests by all the means at their disposal. Certainly, if Europe were to be divided at this moment into two groups of this nature complications could hardly be avoided, and the dangers to which they might give rise would be extremely difficult to avert. It is not necessary for me to dwell upon the criticism here applied to the different Powers, or the description given of their policy. If I were to do so I should have to protest against much that has been said on both sides. I can only say one thing: that it will be the aim of our policy, the endeavour of those Powers which take part with us, and in particular of one Power which takes part with us, not to split Europe up, but to unite it in a common course of peace and quiet. This endeavour may be successful; it may encounter more or less difficulty; but, in any case, there are a few Powers in Europe, two in particular, which are in favour of this course of action, and they suffice to form a firm nucleus round which the rest can group themselves. If, however, the programme of the Government points to an adjournment of the Eastern question, it must be explained that this does not rest exclusively in our hands. The meaning of the European concert is not that we may hope to master all difficulties through its means, but that we may hope to be able, in given circumstances, so to conciliate the conflicting opinions as to render a peaceful solution possible without injury to the vital interests of one party or another. It will naturally follow that, if this policy is maintained, not everything which one or another of the Powers may think expedient will be accomplished. Nor are all the questions which are now at issue derived from the Berlin Congress. The Bulgarian question cast its broad shadow first over the Conference at Constantinople in 1877, where the Ambassadors of the Powers occupied themselves in deliberating upon it. In the same way the Greek question is not of modern invention. It dates from 1820, or earlier. So that even a consensus of the European Powers will hardly suffice to bring about their solution at a given moment.

"I have still to reply to some remarks of his Excellency Baron Hübner on the Dulcigno question, and of another speaker on the Albanian and Greek questions. It may be true that non-intervention is the right policy, and that exceptional rules in international affairs should be most cautiously employed where national passions meet in conflict. But non-intervention is only useful so long as others observe it. If a single Power proclaims the principle of non-intervention whilst the others remain free to intervene materially and morally, that Power disarms itself. There are, therefore, various political courses open to us in respect to the question of Dulcigno, which the Powers have been unable to bring through its wearisome course of development to a definitive settlement; in respect to the right of Montenegro to come into possession of the new frontier assured to it by the Treaty of Berlin; in respect, lastly, to the further questions as to whether any precise direction is given to us for the practical solution of this question. We may simply decline any proposition aiming at these ends, or even pronounce against them, and so declare ourselves in favour of the non-fulfilment of the Berlin Treaty; we may accept them unconditionally; or, finally, we may consult our own interests, and so far limit the action of Europe as to render it harmless to our interests and the common interests of peace.

"Well, then, it is incumbent on us, in our own interest, to see this question arranged, for it is not to the advantage of any State to have a live firebrand on its immediate frontier, which, although not in an actual blaze, might at any time burst into a flame; nor can we allow foreign Powers to be at work close to our own borders without assuming either a friendly or a hostile attitude towards them. The danger of being compelled to employ material means, and the possibility of injury to our proper political interests, seem equally slight in these conditions; there cannot be any question of sacrifices, or of giving up Austrian interests in favour of foreign ones.

"Finally, we have upheld our individual interests in this question in one slight matter, so far as they seemed to be affected, since we have claimed over the coast of Dulcigno, if ceded to Montenegro, the same right of maritime police which the Treaty of Berlin gave us over the district of Antivari in the same circumstances. This claim has received the assent of all the Signatory Powers. The question of Dulcigno is unfortunately not yet ended. I believe, however, that its settlement must soon occur, if one may believe the repeated assurances of the Porte, and may assume that the Turkish Government is beginning to see that it is most necessary to put an end to a situation which places Turkey in so false a position towards all the Powers.

"As regards the Greek question, it has been asserted that we have gone too far in laying down a fixed line of frontier. I have elsewhere recognized the fact, and I recognize it again here, that we treat the Greek nationality as a nationality whose struggles we regard with sympathy. It represents an ancient civilization, and we have to thank the struggles of the Greeks for whatever civilization has been preserved in the Balkan Peninsula. The suggestion, that we have laid down a definite frontier, is in part unfounded; the frontier was first laid down by the Berlin Treaty. We have not treated the line so laid down as compulsory. On the contrary, we have held fast to the idea of "mediation," a mediation which we were bound to carry out when Greece was called upon in the sense of the Treaty. There is no more special obligation to carry out this than any other stipulation of the Treaty of Berlin.

"Since it is for our interest to strengthen the Greek element, not merely to extend the frontiers, in those provinces where it has been particularly expressed for the last twenty years, I think it behoves the Government to take proper steps, without injury to our own interests, and at fitting opportunities, to procure the recognition of the proper importance of the Hellenic element. We shall naturely consider how far the Austrian Government should go in this direction, because there are political objects for which one may be content to make sacrifices up to a certain limit without desiring to go beyond that limit, or to enter upon measures likely to involve more serious complications. If I am bound at all to speak reservedly upon these subjects, I am particularly so bound in answering the question which Mr. Demel has repeatedly made to me, namely, what objects does the Austro-Hungarian Government pursue in the East? He himself explained that he did not ask for a detailed answer, but wished to receive the desired information in general terms, especially in regard to Greece. I can perhaps reply in this way: we shall desire to maintain a balance between the populations of the Balkan Peninsula, and a balance of influence between the European Powers. I have still a few words to say in reply to Mr. Plener upon the Albanian question and our relations with neighbouring States. As to the neighbouring States, I am deeply impressed by the wish to maintain the most friendly relations with them. A State which has no "chauvinistic" tendencies, which desires neither to extend its own limits, nor to see those of its neighbour extended at its cost, can only maintain friendly relations with its neighbours. The Austrain monarchy is the better able to do this, because its neighbours belong to nationalities already represented in its domains, and therefore dear to its citizens. I think it is our best policy to maintain friendship with our neighbours and strive for the general welfare. But here again the character of our relations and their consequences cannot depend upon us alone. One may however determine to be a good neighbour; and I can only give you the assurance that my efforts will always be directed towards the maintenance of friendly relations with our neighbours. But if any of our neighbours will not accept the friendship offered to them, if they will not understand that all their interests should lead them into friendly relations, but choose to assume a hostile attitude, it might become necessary for Austria-Hungary to make them sensible of her weight and importance as a State. This is no act of self-glorification, but a necessity in certain circumstances. We have one proof of our own good neighbourhood, and its good effect on others in the great improvement which has taken place in the last few years in our relations with Roumania, and here I should like to appeal to public opinion and its organs in Austria-Hungary to refrain from raising up the little conflict of interest and differences of opinion which may present themselves, and may perhaps, I confess, be treated by

those little States less quietly than they ought to be treated into great conflicts, and thus disturbing those friendly relations which it is our desire to maintain.

"Dr. von Plener has mentioned another nationality, in which he is deeply interested, the Albanian.

"What I have already said about our relations with our neighbours applies in part to Albania since our occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The legitimate expansion of the Albanian race involves no immediately evident danger to us, and we have therefore every reason to support and assist its development. But although Dr. Plener is accurately informed and unerring in judgment, I must, nevertheless, observe that the expression "Albanian nation" is an expression that is hardly yet applicable. I will not here make any ethnographic discursion, but only a few years ago the Albanians themselves had very little knowledge of any common Albanian sentiment, and a reference to their history will show that North Albania, under Princes like Skander Bey, and, later, under other native Princes, and South Albania—about Ali Pasha's time—tried to get up a common feeling, to give expression to their common desire for independence, but that a perfect understanding could never be arrived at. There are, to this day, marked differences between them. The nation was divided into tribes, very much like the Scotch clans of the twelfth century, which were alternately at war and in alliance with one another. If the distinctions were not, as a rule, so sharply defined as in other Oriental countries, the difference between Catholics and Mussulmans was much greater than that between the Mussulmans and the members of the Greek Orthodox Church in the south of the country.

"Latterly, through the fault of the Porte itself, a national feeling has again arisen in Albania, not, I fear, to the disadvantage of the Porte, for it must still cling to Islam, and therefore to the Sultan. I cannot see any other attachment for the Albanians, and my experience leads me to believe that we shall find much difficulty in protecting them from Mahommedan oppression.

"The Treaty of Berlin has certainly deprived the Albanians of land in favour of Montenegro. The Mussulman inhabitants were the first to take up arms against this; and, later, after the April Conferences, they were joined by the Catholic tribes. Dulcigno itself does not touch the Albanian question. The best proof of this is, that the resistance to its cession was not originated in Dulcigno. The impulse came from without.

"Much, as Dr. von Plener has reminded us, has been talked about alliances, understandings, &c. If one looks through the newspapers of the last few months, one reads that there are not two States in Europe which have not contracted alliances and repealed them. As regards Austria-Hungary—and this I may say, as much in behalf of my predecessor as of myself—the foundation of her political relations and aims in the last few years has been constancy.

"On this subject I will refrain from giving promises, for these could have no other effect than that of weakening our policy at a moment in which it stands absolutely firm.

"It only remains for me to reply to the question of M. Suess. I think that the lively interest I feel for the works at the Iron Gate is well known. I think they form a national interest of the highest importance to Austria-Hungary. I think that if we, even in a legal sense, have assumed no duty but a right, we still have a moral obligation towards Europe to open this, the most beautiful water-road on the Continent, and give the Danube all the importance it should have to the broad lands it runs through. The question is at this moment under the consideration of the two Governments of the Emperor-King, and, as regards the action of the Foreign Office, which considers the question as a task entrusted to us by the Treaty of Berlin, no pains will be spared to forward the matter, and bring it quickly to a conclusion. The Foreign Office will at the same time endeavour to protect and advance all the popular interests of Austria-Hungary in every possible way. But here also, I must confess that, in the wide circle of our population, many people found excessive and unsound expectations upon the action of the Government. The Government can open roads, but it cannot undertake that men shall travel upon them; and if we are to protect popular material interests in the East, pioneers from the people must go out and found those interests. We are favoured by our geographical position and by relations of old standing. Bosnia and Herzegovina are now as entirely opened to us as though they were part of the Austro-Hungarian soil. Railways, it may be hoped, will soon be made there. At all events, the Government will do all it can to get them made, and give the greatest attention to the question. In other countries we are at no disadvantage. I do not believe that any highly-developed people owes the growth of its material prosperity, even in part, to the action of its Government. I can refer to the example of Switzerland, which, under the most

unfavourable conditions, has managed to create an enormous trade and industry, and to be represented even in the easternmost parts of Asia, in a way which places her far in advance of many other countries. Switzerland has no navigable rivers, is hemmed in all round by foreign custom-houses, is a poor, mountainous country, and has no Agents abroad; and yet there are Swiss in China and East Asia who hold their own even with the great German and English houses."

No. 113.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, November* 11, 1880.

THE telegraphic report of Mr. Gladstone's speech at the Mansion House, which was received to-day, has given the greatest satisfaction here.

No. 114.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, November* 11, 1880.

TURKISH frigate which arrived here on 9th instant leaves to-morrow morning for Volo and Prevesa with flour aboard for troops in Thessaly and Epirus. She also carries 400 cases of Martini rifles, intended for Albanian [? irregulars]. Authorities here have received orders to enrol five more battalions of Redifs. This will raise army in Province of Salonica to sixteen battalions of infantry.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 115.

Earl Granville to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1880, 5·40 P.M.

ADVISE the Servian Government to be conciliatory in their attitude towards Austria, and use any influence you may possess to assist in bringing about a good understanding between the two countries.

No. 116.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1880, 5·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 192 and 193 of yesterday, I sent the following instructions to Mr. Gould this day:—

[See No. 115.]

You will inform the Austrian Government to this effect.

No. 117.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell

(No. 726.) *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

THE German Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and we had some conversation respecting what has lately passed on the Eastern question.

I said that I had been conversing with your Excellency on the Eastern question, and I was glad to learn that Prince Bismarck, though he expressed himself as averse to exerting other than diplomatic pressure upon the Porte, was still anxious to maintain the concerted action of Europe, and desired to assist it. I gathered that the Chancellor still believed in the efficacy of such diplomatic pressure, and it was reassuring to know that one so competent to form an opinion had arrived at that view, but it seemed to me that if it were to have any effect it would be more than ever necessary that the action of the Powers should be consistent and unanimous. I understood that the German Government and also that of France were impressing upon the Government of Greece the expediency of moderation and of abstaining, for the present, from any active steps. We should be glad to join in giving such advice; but in order to do so, we should wish to know what was the character of the instructions which had been given by other Powers to their Representatives in Greece. Whether any receding from the position taken up to the present time regarding the Greek frontier had taken place, or whether any assurances had been given to Greece that she would not lose by conforming to the counsel of the Powers, and if so, in what manner Prince Bismarck proposed that the decisions of the Congress and of the Conference at Berlin, which both he and Baron Haymerle had already declared must be maintained, should eventually be carried into effect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 118.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

E

(No. 614.) *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and repeated what he had already said some days ago as to the desire of his Government to learn our views with regard to the course to be pursued in Turkish affairs.

I told General Menabrea that I was glad to have an opportunity of discussing the matter with him. I was obliged to his Government for the renewed expression of their desire to act with England, and I thought it was both natural and right that they should wish to be informed of our future policy.

That policy, I said, continued to be what we had all along stated, viz., the execution of the settlement arrived at at Berlin by means of concerted action. I thought it probable that in a very few days we should ask the other Powers whether they thought the delay in giving up Dulcigno could be allowed to be indefinitely prolonged, and if not what term should be assigned. After the question of Dulcigno had been settled it appeared that most of the Governments were desirous of remaining quiet, but this, to me, did not seem to be entirely practicable. I then alluded to the advice which we had at first given to the Greek Government in July last, to abstain from the mobilization of their army, but upon which we had not insisted after they had pressed us to withdraw that advice, and stated that all the other Powers had done so; and I said that I should be ready now to join in the steps that I understood were being taken by some of the Powers to urge moderation and prudence upon Greece, but that I could not do this without knowing what assurance I could give the Greeks that they would not lose by such conduct.

As regards the European concert, I denied that it was broken up, although of course it was possible that it might at any moment terminate. Up to the present time, with the exception of the proposal for the occupation of Smyrna, the communications with regard to which were interrupted by the sudden promise of the Sultan to surrender Dulcigno, I knew of no proposal which had not been unanimously acted upon after slight modifications.

As I had said, this agreement might terminate. If this happened, I hoped it would be evident who was responsible for its termination, but for my own part I did not despair of seeing it maintained.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 119.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 357.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 12, 1880.

SAW Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday. Both declared news from Scutari satisfactory. Albanians were dispersing and leaving Mazura. The delegates from Dulcigno were hourly expected at Scutari. Foreign Minister denied currency of rumours of fresh troubles in Albania.

No. 120.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 630.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1880, 3:30 P.M.

YOUR letter of yesterday to Lord Tenterden.

The objection of Her Majesty's Government is to the publication of the instructions to the naval Commanders under which they are now acting, and of which drafts were communicated to the French Government, until after the surrender of Dulcigno is completed. They think it would be very undesirable to publish at this crisis any documents which may tend to confirm the resistance of the Porte.

They believe it to be unusual to publish instructions relating to matters still pending of this character.

This objection would cease immediately after the cession of Dulcigno.

No. 121.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12, 5 P.M.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November* 12, 1880, 2 P.M.

DOES your Lordship wish me to make suggestion put forward in Mr. Green's No. 152, viz., that Italian Government should grant leave of absence to their Consul at Scutari? If so, I do not see how I am to avoid mentioning the information on which the suggestion is founded.

No. 122.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12, 9 P.M.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinje, November* 12, 1880, 2 P.M.

UNDER date of yesterday Mr. Summa informs me that the Turkish Commander-in-chief has been in constant communication with the Chiefs of the Scutari Committee, assuring them that further resistance is useless, and threatening to employ force against them. They consequently called a meeting of the inhabitants, who have persisted in their determination to continue their opposition.

I share Mr. Summa's opinion that if Commander-in-chief is to be guided by irresponsible wishes of the population the affair cannot end satisfactorily, and that but a slight display of authority is necessary to bring matters to a healthy state.

(Repeated to Mr. Goschen and Admiral.)

No. 123.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12, 10 P.M.)

(No. 225. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 12, 1880, 4 P.M.

MY Persian colleague is very reticent with me, and shows suspicion of England. He says that the latest accounts give him reason to hope that the Kurds are defeated, and that there will be no necessity for Russian assistance. He would not admit that there was any question of Russia helping Persia until I told him what I had learned from Baron Jomini, as reported in my telegram No. 222. He denied that the Shah had asked for assistance from the Emperor of Russia, but eventually gave me to understand that communications on this matter had been made through the Persian Legation here to Baron Jomini. Persian Chargé d'Affaires asserts that the Persians had found in possession of the Kurds letters addressed to Abbott, which would prove that he knew more about the rising than the Consul of a friendly Power ought to know. I endeavoured to persuade him that England could have no interest in exciting the Kurds, but it might be the interest of others to make Persia suspicious of Great Britain.

No. 124.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 226. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 12, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador told me yesterday that twenty Russian officers have gone in disguise into Armenia by the way of Bayazid, and ten others have gone there by other routes. He said that in order to attract less attention most of these officers are Armenians or Circassians in the Russian service, and their mission is to stir up trouble and undermine the influence of the English military Consuls there.

No. 125.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 227. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 12, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

BARON JOMINI told the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires yesterday that Prince Ourousoff will proceed shortly to Bucharest as Russian Minister.

The Chargé d'Affaires tells me the Russian Government have of late been more friendly with him and show symptoms of now desiring the friendship of Roumania.

No. 126.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 32. Political. Extender.)
My Lord, "*Monarch*," *Theodo Bay, Cattaro, November* 8, 1880.

THE following intelligence was received last night.

It was brought from Scutari by a special messenger, who had been sent in from Antivari to ascertain what was being done by Dervish Pasha, and was telegraphed to me from the last-named place by Lieutenant Caillard, R.E.:—

Dervish Pasha arrived at Scutari on Wednesday the 3rd November. He took up his quarters with Riza Pasha, from whom he took over the command of the troops, thus superseding him. Dervish Pasha brought with him two battalions of infantry to Scutari, and left two battalions at Alessio. Riza Pasha's six battalions and mountain guns are still at Bela, a fortified position on the Boyana, half-way between Scutari and the sea.

Immediately on Dervish Pasha's arrival he assembled the merchants of Scutari and the Bayrakdars (Chiefs) of the mountain tribes collected round Dulcigno, and declared to them that Dulcigno must absolutely be given up, as such was the order of the Sultan. The Albanians replied that they would all die and let their homes be burnt sooner than give up Dulcigno.

On this answer being given, Dervish Pasha let them go without making use of any threat.

After this meeting the Albanians issued orders not to allow any Turkish soldiers to go to Dulcigno, and announced that they would no longer respond to any summons from the Turks to discuss the question of surrender.

The special messenger asserts that Dervish Pasha, whilst overtly calling upon the Albanians to cede Dulcigno, is secretly encouraging them to continued resistance, but he can give no proof of this, as the Albanian Chiefs are very reticent in the matter.

The Albanians who drove away a Montenegrin outpost, mentioned in my telegram No. 30 to your Lordship, have returned over the mountains, in the direction of Mirkovič.

I would venture to remark on the above intelligence, that all that I have heard indicates that the Albanian resistance to the cession of Dulcigno continues to exist only at the pleasure of the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 127.

Vice-Consul Maling to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 13.)

Dardanelles, November 13, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKS beginning to lay down torpedoes in the Dardanelles; two were laid yesterday evening.

A troop-ship has passed with 1,500 soldiers and military stores for Volo.

No. 128.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 821.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 152.

I mentioned casually to General Menabrea subject of Mr. Green's telegram No. 152, not as a complaint against the Italian Consul, but considering him as an instrument of intrigue by the Turks.

The foregoing for your own information. You need do nothing further in the matter.

No. 129.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 763.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1880, 8 P.M.

I LEAVE it to your discretion how best to deal with the matter referred to in your telegram No. 358. As England and Russia are mediators for the Turco-Persian frontier, if Her Majesty's Government refuse to interfere in their favour, Persia will turn to Russia.

Reports from Consular officers stated that the Sheikh was not really formidable to the Turks if regular troops were sent against him.

Porte should be warned not to afford any asylum or countenance to the Sheikh, which might lead to hostilities with Persia.

No. 130.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 616. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 152 of the 12th instant, inquiring whether you should suggest to the Italian Government, as proposed by Mr. Kirby Green, that leave of absence should be granted to their Consul at Scutari, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government do not wish you to take any further steps in the matter.

I may mention, however, for your own information, that in conversation with General Menabrea I have referred casually to the rumours which had reached me as to the alleged attitude of the Italian Consul at Scutari, and, without stating that any complaint had been made of him, I observed that it appeared to me that his presence had been made use of by the Turks to cover their intrigues.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 131.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 163.)

Sophia, October 30, 1880.

My Lord,

M. ZANCOFF having returned to Sophia from Rustchuk on the 24th instant, I called upon his Excellency on the 25th instant in order to communicate to him the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 122 of the 27th ultimo.

With regard to the non-demolition of the fortresses at Shoumla and Rustchuk, his Excellency said that most of the stonework had been removed, and that he believed that what remained was in a dilapidated condition. I said that I had been informed that, although some of the stonework of the fortresses had been removed, the earthworks remained complete, and that I understood that it would require a very short time to put them in perfect order. His Excellency replied that the demolition of the earthworks would entail great expense, and that at present the Principality had difficulty in finding the means for absolutely necessary expenses, such as keeping the roads in repair.

With regard to the orders given from Sophia to stop the works of demolition which had been begun at Widdin, M. Zancoff explained that the fortress at that place had been originally made over to the Municipality.

The late Minister of War, General Parenzoff, had, however, demanded that the fortresses should be given up to him, and the work that had been begun by the Municipality had been stopped.

M. Zancoff then turned to the question of an armed vessel on the Danube belonging to the Bulgarian Government, and asked to which vessel your Lordship referred. I replied that it was evidently the "Golubchik," which had formerly formed part of the Russian navy, and had been officially made over to the Bulgarian Government. His Excellency replied that the vessel in question was used as the Prince's yacht; that she was unarmed, as were also the two other steamers belonging to the Bulgarian Government, and that she was not adapted for military service. I have heard from other sources that, although the "Golubchik" is provided with a gun for the purpose of firing salutes, she is perfectly useless from a military point of view.

As regarded the suspicions entertained by your Lordship as to the intentions of the Bulgarian Government in consequence of the employment of large numbers of Russian non-commissioned officers, and the continual importation of arms from Russia, M. Zancoff said that he had hoped that the explanations which I had received from the Prince would have convinced Her Majesty's Government that the reports both as to the number of Russian non-commissioned officers, as well as of the arrival of arms, had been exaggerated, and he alluded to the list of Russian non-commissioned officers which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my despatch No. 140 of the 6th ultimo, about the correctness of which there could be no doubt, as it had been drawn up by the Minister of War.

His Excellency then repeated the assurances, which he has more than once made to me, that the Principality desired to remain perfectly quiet, and that no movement would take place unless events occurred outside the Principality which would force the Government into action.

In conclusion, his Excellency said that he would communicate your Lordship's observations to the Council of Ministers, and, in order that he might do so, he requested me to communicate them to him in writing.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note which I addressed to his Excellency in compliance with this request.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Zancoff.

Sophia, le 25 Octobre, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

EN conséquence des informations qui sont parvenues au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, mon auguste Souveraine, tant au sujet de l'arrivée dans la Bulgarie de sous-officiers et d'armes de la Russie, qu'au sujet des progrès du mouvement pour l'Union de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale, j'ai été chargé par le Premier Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté pour les Affaires Etrangères de faire savoir au

Gouvernement Bulgare que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a appris avec regret que les provisions du Traité de Berlin en ce qui concerne la démolition des anciennes forteresses n'ont pas été exécutées à Shumla et à Roustchouk, et que l'œuvre de démolition qui avait été commencée à Widdin a été arrêtée d'après des ordres donnés à Sophia.

Je suis aussi chargé de faire observer que la présence sur le Danube d'un bateau à vapeur armé appartenant au Gouvernement Bulgare est une infraction de l'Article LI du Traité.

L'emploi d'un grand nombre de sous-officiers Russes et l'importation continuelle d'armes de la Russie ne peuvent que faire naître de graves soupçons quant aux intentions du Gouvernement Bulgare, et Lord Granville m'a chargé d'avertir votre Excellence du danger que courrait le Gouvernement Princier en prenant des mesures qui auraient pour but de changer l'état de choses qui a été établi dans la Péninsule Balkanique par le Traité de Berlin.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 132.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)*

(No. 187.)
Sophia, November 1, 1880.

My Lord,

IN an interview which I had this morning with the Prince of Bulgaria, His Highness referred to the note which I had addressed to M. Zancoff on the subject of the non-fulfilment of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the demolition of the fortresses and the presence of an armed vessel on the Danube, as well as of the suspicions as to the intentions of the Bulgarian Government caused by the employment of large numbers of Russian non-commissioned officers and the continual importation of arms from Russia.

His Highness said that he had requested General Ehrnrooth, the Minister of War, to prepare an answer to my note, and in the meantime he could assure me that enough had been done to make the fortresses perfectly useless from a military point of view. His Highness would be glad if a Commission of foreign officers could be formed to report upon the fortresses and decide the question as to whether any further demolitions were necessary. His Highness went on to say that he was anxious that the Treaty of Berlin should be strictly carried out. He added, however, that the demand of the Porte to occupy the Balkans had caused him the greatest anxiety. He said that such an occupation would completely undo the work of the Treaty as regarded Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and he could not believe that the Great Powers would agree to it. If the occupation should really take place, Bulgaria would regard it as a declaration of war, and would resist it to the utmost of her power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 133.

E *Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)*

(No. 343.)
Athens, November 5, 1880.

My Lord,

AS I informed your Lordship in a previous despatch, the sittings of the Chamber were suspended during three days in consequence of a death in the Royal Family. Yesterday it was expected that M. Coumoundouros would make a statement of the views and intentions of the new Government. He did not, however, make any communication to the House.

The Minister of Finance explained to the Chamber the state of the finances of the country; he said that in payment of the orders given by the late Government the Treasury will have to supply 24,500,000 drachmas, and for warlike purposes the present Government will have to provide a further sum of 25,500,000 drachmas before the end of the year. He had been of opinion that Greece should prepare her army and navy gradually and by degrees, without making heavy sacrifices, but now that "the whole of Europe, recognizing the injustice done to Greece in former years, had adjudicated to her an extension of territory, every delay is fatal." He would support any proposal

for a quick and more perfect preparation for events. M. Sotiropoulos, in conclusion, said that after the late preparation he considered that Greece would commit suicide if she recedes now. His speech was received with applause.

The Minister of War then rose and exposed the state of the army. On the 27th October he said that it numbered 44,684 men. The army is imperfectly clad, and barracks and many necessary wants have still to be supplied.

M. Tricoupi denied that clothing was wanting; all that was necessary had been provided or was ordered.

The Minister of Marine introduced on the table a Bill relating to naval conscription, and he said he would lay before the House a special Bill for the expenses of this Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 134.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Serajevo, November 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that there appears to be a growing inclination on the part of the Mussulman inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina to emigrate from the country. About a dozen families lately left Mostar, but they were chiefly small shopkeepers, and others whose business and employment ceased after the Austrian occupation, and who, finding their means of livelihood gone, had probably no alternative but to seek a means of subsistence elsewhere. I now, however, hear that many of the wealthier Mussulmans of this and other towns in Bosnia are making preparations to quit the province. The principal drawback to their departure is the difficulty they experience in getting rid, at even a moderate price, of their landed and house property, and this difficulty undoubtedly deters many others who are likewise anxious to emigrate.

It is difficult to account for this desire to leave the country, which was not displayed during the early period of the Austrian occupation. Though there have certainly been cases where their habits and religious prejudices have hardly met with that amount of consideration from the Austrian officials which they perhaps expected, and which it would certainly have been politic to accord, they can hardly complain of oppression, and I really believe that the increasing restraints of civilized life and of systematic government, together with their loss of pre-eminence in the country, are among the foremost inducements to leave. It is also said that they are influenced by the fear that ere long military service will be required from their sons. Under certain conditions they would, perhaps, make no objection to this, but it is frequently stated here by military officers—probably without authority, I admit, but the effect on the natives is none the less—that when the conscription is enforced no distinction will be made between Mussulmans and Christians; they will be incorporated in the same regiments, wear the same dress, including the Austrian cap, and be fed on the same food.

Any extensive emigration of the Mussulman inhabitants of these provinces would, I consider, be a great misfortune for Austria, and considerably enhance the difficulties of government. Political disaffection is only to be feared from the Orthodox or Servian portion of the population, and if the Mussulman element is weakened the former may obtain a preponderating influence in the country highly detrimental to Austrian interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 135.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Prevesa, November 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my Confidential despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, containing further information respecting the military preparations that are going on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Prevesa, November 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Ferik Zeki Pasha, Commander of the troops in Epirus, has just arrived here from Arta. During his stay at Arta he is reported to have said that all the Redifs, as well as the Mustefezas, are to be called out, as a Turco-Greek war is to take place.

The Redifs of Prevesa, seven in number, as well as six conscripts, left for Janina the other day.

The Mutessarif's visit to Margariti, mentioned in my despatch of the 30th ultimo, is, I find, connected with the calling out of the Redifs; some difficulty, it appears, has been met there in inducing the men to join the colours.

The first ban of Redifs that has just been called out consists of the following battalions:—

Berat, 1; Argyrocastro, 1; and Janina, 1. Total, 3 battalions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 136.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 717.)
My Lord, *Pesth, November 7, 1880.*

IN sending your Lordship the substance of Baron Haymerle's speech in the Austrian Delegations on the 4th, it did not seem necessary to go through that of Baron Hübner, to which it was an answer, for, although he no doubt possesses more experience and knowledge of foreign affairs than probably any of those who listened to him, as he represents no important political party, the opinions he expresses must be regarded as almost entirely personal to himself.

He is haunted by one perpetual dread; he foresees the early occupation of the Presidential Chair in France by M. Gambetta, and he believes that this event will be shortly followed by a great war, unless the three Empires are seen to be so closely banded together as to render it impossible.

He argues, therefore, that the present policy of Austria should be to induce the other Governments to adjourn the Eastern question, which offers no danger to the public peace as long as they abstain from touching it, and to direct her attention to the formation of a coalition to ward off the real danger which is threatened from the West.

In yesterday's sitting of the Delegations, Baron Hübner complained that Baron Haymerle had misunderstood the whole bearing of his speech in representing him as proposing to divide Europe into two camps.

The Minister replied that the Baron's first speech was to the effect that the consideration of the danger threatening in the East must be postponed in order that that which threatened from the West might be met, but he added that if an appeal were made to England and Italy, Austria and the Conservative cause could not reckon on the sympathy of the former, while, as regarded the latter, it was doubtful whether, at the moment of the crisis, it would ally itself to the Conservative or Revolutionary Powers,

and Baron Haymerle left it to the House to appreciate whether this was or was not a "grouping" of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 137.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

E
(No. 718. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 7, 1880.*

BARON HÜBNER'S declaration of his wish to see an alliance established between Austria, Germany, and Russia made me anxious to know whether the Emperor approved of his speech, and I took an opportunity of asking His Majesty what he thought about it.

He answered that he looked upon the speech as uncalled for and injudicious, and its conclusions as absolutely mistaken.

The newspapers have of late frequently represented that there was a disposition here to renew the Dreikaiserbund, though I was aware of this not being the case as regards the Government, and the Emperor's language showed that he contemplates it as little as his Ministers.

I have not as yet met any one who expressed approval of Baron Hübner's views; but the persons I have met have been almost entirely Hungarians, while those who share them must be looked for among the Austrian aristocracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 138.

E C. *Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)*
(No. 723.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 10, 1880.*

IN your Lordship's Confidential despatch No. 718 you mention that you had declared to M. Hengelmüller how entirely untrue it was that Her Majesty's Government were favourable to ambitious views on the part of Russia.

I have stated the same thing very frequently to Baron Haymerle, who, however, has never intimated that he attributed such a wish to them.

The difference between the two Governments lies not in the object to be aimed at, for he has no doubt of your Lordship's efforts being directed to the pacification of the East, but in the appreciation of the policy by which it is hoped that this object may be attained, and Baron Haymerle is undoubtedly of opinion that the course advocated by Her Majesty's Government, though not so designed, is calculated to advance the traditional views of Russia.

His Excellency said to me last night that no one could be more anxious than he was to preserve the concert of the Powers, but he maintained that while a concert for pacification was possible, one for action and coercion was impossible, as the interests of the different countries would immediately be found antagonistic. The interests of Austria and Russia in the East were not the same, and the readiness with which the latter Power, which never lost sight of an object she wished to attain, consented to every measure proposed for the coercion of Turkey, was in itself evidence of her belief that it helped her towards it.

I pressed Baron Haymerle very strongly to say what he would propose to do if Dulcigno were not given up, but he almost refused to contemplate such an eventuality, showing a nervous dread of the possibility of it, and asking, in his turn, what could be done.

I remarked that Her Majesty's Government had already made a proposal calculated to exercise a pressure upon Turkey likely to make the Sultan give way, but other Governments had declined to join in it, and it seemed now to lie with them to suggest an alternative.

I next questioned him with regard to Greece, remarking that Her Majesty's Government would certainly not allow that question to be neglected, of which he said he had

already been informed by M. Hengelmüller, but his Excellency only repeated that, while he had no intention of neglecting it, he could not act precipitately in regard to it; and if he had any doubt of the inexpediency of pressing it on, it would be removed by the knowledge that Prince Bismarck would absolutely refuse to take part in any measure of coercion whatever.

I suggested that this decision was perhaps the consequence of his own determination to abstain from action, and might be removed if he went along with Her Majesty's Government; but he declared this not to be the case, and that Lord Odo Russell would probably have informed your Lordship that, under no circumstances, could the armed co-operation of Germany be counted on.

My reports of conversations with the Austrian Minister must necessarily be mere repetitions of what I have before written, for his language is uniformly the same, except that each time he shows a greater determination to stop at diplomatic pressure upon Turkey, and to advocate a temporizing policy, by which things would, he says, gradually settle down, when he expects a favourable opportunity to be found for arriving at an arrangement of the questions still in suspense. He repeats that, by coercive measures, everything would be disturbed and nothing settled, whereas, by patience and prudence, everything might be settled without anything being disturbed, and from this point of view he is not to be moved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 139.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 725. Extender.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 11, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Marinoviteh has arrived on a mission from Servia, and has to-day delivered a communication to the Austro-Hungarian Government officially disclaiming, on the part of the new Servian Government, the pretensions put forward by M. Ristitch which had prevented the commencement of the negotiation of a Treaty of Commerce, which will, in consequence, now be begun at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 140.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 728.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 11, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH Mr. Lascelles' despatches are brought as far as Vienna by Austrian messenger, I have not thought it advisable, in conversation with Baron Haymerle, to allude to the language reported in his despatch to your Lordship No. 167 as having been held to him by Prince Alexander upon the subject of the Turkish garrisons on the Balkans.

I have very recently informed your Lordship of the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government upon this question, and of their unreserved recognition of the right of the Porte to place Turkish garrisons along that line of frontier, although they would deprecate its exercise at present.

The Prince's statement, that an occupation, which was contemplated by the Treaty, would undo its work as respects Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and that he would regard it as a declaration of war, which he would resist to the utmost of his power, would certainly produce a very unfavourable impression upon the Austro-Hungarian Government, and make them doubt the sincerity of His Highness' assurances, that he entertains no ambitious projects, which alone would be interfered with by the presence of garrisons placed in the vicinity of his frontier, but without the power of passing it or of affecting the internal affairs of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 141.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

E
(No. 525. Secret. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 8, 1880.*

AS I was leaving Baron Jomini this afternoon, he detained me to inquire whether I had any later news of the progress being made in the Dulcigno affair.

On my replying that I had nothing new from there, Baron Jomini said, in measured and, for him, unusually slow language: "What a pity that, with your institutions, there is no means of having a serious alliance with England. It would be such a good solution. But England would not listen to an alliance except for some limited and definite object. That is not what is wanted. A general alliance between England and Russia would be such a good thing."

I reminded Baron Jomini that only a few days ago he had himself stated to me that Russia could not go, alone with England, even to Smyrna, as such joint action would excite in Central Europe jealousies which Russia was not prepared to face.

"Yes," said his Excellency; "but if we could understand one another on all points, an alliance between Russia and England would be most desirable."

I said his Excellency was opening a wide field of discussion, and, as he had the Council waiting for him in his room (from which he had come out to speak to me in the antechamber), I would not delay him any longer to-day.

His Excellency begged me not to hurry, and again said how desirable he thought a Russo-English alliance would be in the interests of the general peace of Europe.

I made no reply beyond a general declaration of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to live on good terms with the Imperial Government, and I left the room.

Your Lordship is well aware that, in treating with Baron Jomini when the Court is at Livadia, it is not always easy to know when his Excellency is speaking by instructions, or when he is merely expressing his private views, which are not always in entire harmony with those of the Imperial Government.

It is therefore possible that I may on this occasion be wrong in attributing to these remarks the weight which I do.

My impression, founded on his manner, on his coming out from a Council to see me, on the stress he laid on his words, and on the care with which he expressed himself, is that his Excellency was "throwing out a feeler," and that he was giving vent to the desire of this Government for a close and thorough understanding with Great Britain.

The speeches of Baron Haymerle have produced a painful effect in this country; they have intensified the dislike and suspicion already existing against Austria; and they have awakened a feeling which it would require little to fan into as warlike a spirit as existed in 1876.

This is, probably, the reason why Russia would now gladly accept an alliance with England, when only a fortnight ago she was inclined to hesitate about accompanying us even to Smyrna.

In reporting the above remarks of Baron Jomini to your Lordship, I trust I may be permitted to express the opinion that, at the present moment, in consequence of the hostility which any close Anglo-Russian agreement excites in Germany and Austria, the benefits of such an alliance would be on the side of this Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 142.

Sir A. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

E
(No. 525. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 13, 1880.*

FROM the very interesting despatches bearing upon the relations between Russia, Austria, and Germany, which Mr. Plunkett has recently addressed to your Lordship, it is apparent that while Russia is suspicious of both the other Powers, and is especially

irritated with Austria on account of her reluctance to join in any combination having for its object the employment of coercion against Turkey, she is herself in reality unprepared to enter upon a policy of action if no more than one Power supports her.

It is true that, as reported in Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 525, Secret, of the 8th instant, Baron Jomini has hinted pretty broadly at the advantages to be derived from a binding alliance between England and Russia; the counterpart, in fact, of the one existing between Germany and Austria, and as a set-off against it; but this feeler only serves to bring out more clearly than ever the extent of Russia's annoyance in regard to the two Powers, of whom she is so distrustful, and the power still possessed by the war party at St. Petersburgh, who, in their eagerness to prevent at any cost the failure of all their plans, must, while speaking through Baron Jomini, have overlooked the fact that the policy of Her Majesty's Government does not, like their own, aim at the destruction of Turkey.

If they had forgotten the tenour of your Lordship's instructions to Mr. Goschen, on his Excellency's appointment as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador at Constantinople, they might have refreshed their memories by a perusal of what fell from the Prime Minister's lips on a very recent occasion.

Feeling, however, impotent in their present crippled financial condition to deal single-handed with Prince Bismarck's combinations, but at the same time fretting under the obligation of having to accept them, Russia naturally would receive immense comfort if she could count upon such an ally as Great Britain to back her up in thwarting the German Chancellor.

She knows that for the present, at all events, it would be useless to reckon upon France, and that, therefore, if she remains alone she could hardly venture upon any line of conduct calculated to arouse jealousy at Berlin.

Though falling far short of what they were at the time of the "Dreikaiserbund," her relations with this country are certainly less openly uncordial than they were a year ago, and she may still perhaps deem it more prudent not to throw away the chance of gaining something eventually under the guidance of Prince Bismarck, although this might be at the price of holding her hand against Turkey, and on the condition of her being able to overcome the decided opposition which Austria would offer to her joining the alliance with Germany.

This would explain the evident interest now being taken by Russia in preventing any rising in the Balkan States, and in declining, except under conditions which she could hardly expect Her Majesty's Government to accept, to act alone with England in bringing pressure to bear upon the Porte.

Prince Bismarck may not be altogether disinterested in counselling Russia to be prudent in the actual state of her finances, as, if I am not mistaken, the greater part of the Russian securities in connection with loans, which were formerly held in England, have found their way to Germany, and any complications in which Russia was now involved could only tend to increase her financial embarrassment, and so lower the value of what Germany holds in the shape of securities.

On the other hand, Russia herself may be supposed not to be altogether indifferent as to how her public credit stands, and therefore, while far from satisfied at having to listen to Prince Bismarck's advice, she may not be prepared to face the penalties of disobedience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 143.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 527. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 13, 1880.*

M. DE RADOWITZ leaves Berlin this evening for Athens. During his hurried visit here he has been so occupied with business that, beyond having a few moments' conversation with him, I have had no opportunity of talking to him about his mission to Greece.

I gathered, however, from what he said, that he did not despair of being able to persuade the Greek Government to remain quiet, at all events during the coming winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 144.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 505.)
My Lord, *Rome, November 11, 1880.*

M. CAIROLI paid me a visit yesterday afternoon, and, in the course of conversation, I asked his Excellency whether he had any and what news respecting the cession of Dulcigno, to which he replied that he had that morning received news of a very discouraging nature from Colonel Ottolenghi, the Italian Commissioner for the delimitation of the Montenegrin boundary, who, as I reported in my despatch No. 491 of the 30th ultimo, had been sent back to be present at the meeting of the Ottoman and Montenegrin Commissioners.

Colonel Ottolenghi had telegraphed from Scutari, where he had met the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé, saying that it was his firm conviction, as well as that of M. Durando, that there was not now the remotest chance of Dulcigno being given up.

I read to M. Cairoli Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 353, repeated in your Lordship's No. 815, reporting his audience of the Sultan on this subject, and when I came to the part where Mr. Goschen says that he gathered that the Sultan would not, in any case, order the Albanians to be fired on, M. Cairoli said that he had received information to the same effect from Count Corti.

The Albanians, his Excellency remarked, were of course aware of this, and consequently it was idle to expect them to yield.

He went on to express himself in very strong terms as to the continued trifling and double-dealing of the Turks in regard to this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 145.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 359.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 14, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador informed me this evening that news from Consul at Scutari is encouraging.

No. 146.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 15, 1880, noon.*

OBSERVING by the newspapers that the Captain of Austrian man-of-war which lately visited St. Giovanni di Medua and other North Albanian ports has made a Report confirming the Turkish allegations that their troops are in a way surrounded and threatened by natives, I think it right to state that the Captain was evidently misinformed, for the troops are completely masters of the situation.

The feast of Bairam terminates to-day, and if the Turkish Commander-in-chief still defers surrendering the ceded territory, it must clearly be inferred that the Porte has no intention to fulfil its promises; Dervish Pasha has now had ample time to prepare to carry out the orders he is said to have.

(Sent to Mr. Goschen.)

No. 147.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, November 15, 1880, 1 P.M.*

FOUR battalions of Redifs of the first ban have been enrolled in the Vilayet of Monastir.

No. 148.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 140.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 15, 1880.*

I HAVE to express my approval of the steps taken by you, as reported in your despatch No. 330 of the 17th ultimo, to dissuade the Prince of Montenegro from appealing to the Powers on account of the misrepresentations of the Porte in regard to His Highness' treatment of certain Mussulmans of Spuz and Podgoritza.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 149.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 141.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 15, 1880.*

I APPROVE the language which you held to the Prince of Montenegro, as reported in your despatch No. 339 of the 3rd instant, with regard to a suggestion which His Highness seemed inclined lately to adopt of publicly renouncing his claims to any extension of territory beyond that which he already occupies.

I am, &c
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 150.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 331. Secret and Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 28, 1880.*

I HAD the honour of being received in audience by the King to-day for the first time since his return to Greece. His Majesty informed me that it was his intention to push on the military preparations with the greatest possible speed, as he considered that the Powers could not do otherwise than urge the Porte to concede the new line of frontier. Greece, he said, was bound, in return for the action of the Powers, to be ready to bear her share of the necessary measures, and should she not succeed in obtaining what she considered had been awarded to her, she would not hesitate, His Majesty told me plainly, to take the initiative in attempting to secure it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 151.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 339. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 2, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Tevfik Bey, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, has received instructions from his Government to furnish them with an explanation of M. Coumoundouros' recent statement in the Chamber to the effect that Greece was prepared herself to carry out the decision of Europe in the matter of the new frontier-line.

Tevfik Bey has, in consequence, spoken unofficially to the Prime Minister on the subject, and inquired the meaning of the expression referred to.

M. Coumoundouros endeavoured to explain it away, and declared that his Government had no intention of taking the initiative, but that they were obliged to keep up the spirit of enthusiasm in the country.

The Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, failing to obtain a satisfactory reply from the Prime Minister, informed his Government two days ago of the result of his conversation, but he has not, so far, received any further instructions on the subject.

The Prime Minister's statement to the House, which will no doubt set forth the policy of the Government, did not take place yesterday, but has been further postponed to Thursday next, in consequence of the death of the Princess Olga.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 152.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 358.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 349 of the 7th instant, Aleko Pasha informed me to-day that, in accordance with the promise he had made, Circulars had been addressed to all the Prefects instructing them to promote as far as possible the final settlement of the "ij'ret" claim, and to report to him what amount of "ij'ret" still remained to be paid. On my inquiring whether any answers had been received, his Excellency replied that the Prefect of Hasskeui had reported that in his department the "ij'ret" had been paid in full, but that answers had not yet been received from the other Prefects.

The Governor-General then informed me that a Commission had been appointed in the Department of Bourgas for the settlement of this question, and that it was working well. I told his Excellency that I was very glad to hear that such steps were being taken by the Government, and I urged him to appoint similar Commissions in the other departments. This his Excellency at once promised to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 153.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 359. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 1, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 338, Confidential, of the 18th September, that I had been informed that an attempt was being made by M. Vanutelli, the Papal Representative at Constantinople, to persuade the Exarch to agree to a Catholic Protectorate over the Bulgarian Church. I moreover informed your Lordship that I had learnt from a reliable source that the Emperor of Austria had expressed himself in favour of this proposal to the Papal Nuncio at Vienna. I would now venture to draw your Lordship's attention to an Encyclical letter lately addressed by the Pope to the Roman Catholic clergy, instructing them to celebrate in future the festivals of the Slav saints, Cyrile and Methodius.

I have been unable to procure the Latin text of this Circular, but according to an article which appeared in the "Gazetta d'Italia" on the 3rd October last, and of which I have the honour to inclose a French translation, Leo XIII alludes to the changes which have taken place in the state of affairs in the east of Europe, adding that an opportunity is thus afforded for coming to the assistance of the Slav races, in whose welfare the Church takes so much interest. His Holiness finally recommends greater activity on the part of the Roman Catholic Bishops and priests, with a view, it would seem, of the conversion of these races to the Roman Catholic faith.

I beg likewise to report the arrival here this summer of an Austrian Bishop, Mgr. Menini, a Dalmatian by birth, and reputed to be a very eloquent preacher. Unlike his predecessor, however, Mgr. Menini does not confine himself, it appears, to merely ministering to the spiritual wants of the small Bulgarian Catholic community, but apparently seeks a wider range for his teaching, which, I am told, has not unfrequently a strong political colouring. His Eminence, moreover, professes to be in frequent communication with the Austrian Court, and the tendency of his proceedings and language is so distinctly in keeping with the above-mentioned Papal injunctions that it is not unlikely that the Bulgarians will soon begin to think that he is acting under special instructions from Vienna and the Vatican.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Extract from the "Gazetta d'Italia" of October 3, 1880.

LES feuilles cléricales de Rome nous apportent aujourd'hui le texte Latin de "l'Epistola Encyclique" du Pape Léon XIII adressée aux Patriarches, Archevêques, et Evêques du cercle Catholique, par laquelle—comme nous l'indiquait hier un dernier télégramme—on étend à toute l'Eglise Catholique, la fête des Saints Cyrile et Methodius, Apôtres Slaves, établie déjà depuis le 5 Juillet par Pie IX. Celui de Léon XIII semble une prévoyance qui n'excède pas l'ambition des sacristies, et les compétences des calendriers de la curie. Il y a, au contraire, croyons-nous, une grande portée comme ce qui indique à une sorte de déplacement dans la base d'opération de la curie Pontificale. S'apercevant que le pourri et vieux monde Latin chancelle malheureusement désormais sous les pieds de la clériciature Catholique Romaine, et sachant qu'on ne peut se fier au monde Anglo-Germanique, auteur ou exécuteur de la grande réforme Protestante, la Papauté indique de chercher une nouvelle base dans le monde Slave, qui est actuellement en formation, et par conséquent très-bien adapté pour être influencé et recevoir l'adresse du Catholicisme Romain.

L'idée nous semble magnifique et digne de l'esprit d'un Pape comme Léon XIII, lequel s'inspire probablement à l'exemple de son magnanime prédécesseur, et homonyme Léon Magne, dans l'esprit duquel a germé la grande idée de se servir de la conversion des barbares comme de levier au renversement total des reliques de la domination Impériale, et d'instrument à la fondation de celle des Pontifs de Rome.

Léon XIII note, en effet, que n'étant pas encore complété l'œuvre initiée par son prédécesseur immédiat, et poursuivie par le dernier Concile du Vatican, "et par les vicissitudes des temps, l'état de la chose publique ayant changé dans ces régions, il nous semble l'occasion offerte pour venir en aide aux peuples Slaves pour la santé desquels nous prenons le plus grand soin."

Et c'est pourquoi, désirant que "la religion soit plus largement étendue et augmentée" il faut propager le culte religieux "d'hommes très-saints, lesquels, comme jadis, propageant la foi Catholique, rappelèrent de la ruine le monde Slave, de cette manière aujourd'hui on le défendra puissamment avec le céleste patronage."

Il composa ensuite la biographie des deux Apôtres Slaves du neuvième siècle* dans le but principal de montrer comme "toute la nation des Slaves doit beaucoup à Cyrile, parce qu'il reçut le bienfait non-seulement de la foi Chrétienne, mais aussi de la culture civile (*humanitatis*)." Et remerciant Dieu pour l'occasion propice qui s'est offerte "de gratifier le monde Slave, et de promouvoir l'utilité commune avec une étude non inférieure certainement à celle découverte toujours dans ses prédécesseurs," il étend la fête des deux Saints de la manière susmentionnée, et confirme le privilège accordée aux Slaves par le Pape Jean VIII d'employer la langue Slave dans toutes les cérémonies religieuses, dans les offices ecclésiastiques, et dans la lecture du vieux et nouveau testament, compris les Evangiles.

Cette dernière concession, aujourd'hui confirmée, a une telle importance, aussi politiquement parlant, qu'elle ne peut échapper à aucun observateur, quoique superficielle, importance mise en relief supérieure encore aux considérations suivantes de l'Encyclique, que nous traduisons littéralement :—

"A cela, en effet, nous visons; nous désirons cela uniquement, employer tous nos efforts, et en tout temps, afin que les gens du nom Slave soient instruits par une plus grande quantité d'Evêques et de sacerdotes; qu'ils soient confirmés dans la profession de la véritable foi, dans l'obéissance à la véritable Eglise de Jésus-Christ, et grâce à l'expérience quotidienne; ils puissent ressentir tous les bienfaits des institutions de l'Eglise Catholique qui résultent de vivre ensemble et dans tous les ordres de l'Etat. A ces églises, en vérité, sont réservés les plus nombreuses, et la plus grande partie de nos soins, et il n'y a aucune chose que nous puissions désirer plus ardemment que celle de pourvoir à leur avantage et de les avoir toutes à nous unies par des liens perpétuels de concorde qui est le meilleur lieu du bien-être."

Ou nous nous trompons grandement, ou bien la nouvelle Encyclique de Léon XIII aura un écho non moindre de celle sur la restauration des études thomistes, et produira, nous en sommes persuadés, des fruits supérieurs, et plus utiles pour être mieux adaptés aux raisons et aux besoins de l'époque.

* St. Cyrile mourût à Rome le 24 Février de l'an 869, et Methodius en Moravie on ne sait pas la date précise, mais il est certain que sa mort arriva après le 880.

No. 154.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 360.)
Philippopoli, November 3, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 319 of the 31st July, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship detailed returns of the census recently made of the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia.

The total figures show the following proportion of the various nationalities in the population:—

Bulgarians	573,560
Turks	174,700
Greeks	42,659
Gipsies	10,549
Jews	4,177
Armenians	1,306
Total	815,951

These statistics have been so hurriedly collected, and in so primitive a manner, that there must necessarily be much doubt as to their accuracy. They are principally founded, it appears, on a rough calculation formed as to the number of families in the different villages, towns, and districts, each family being considered to contain a certain average number of members.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 155.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 361.)
Philippopoli, November 4, 1880.

My Lord,

M. CRESTOVITCH, the Director-General, informed me to-day that a telegram had been received at the konak a few days ago from the Porte, stating that categorical instructions had been sent to the Governor of Saloniea to immediately hand over to the East Roumelian Government the four villages in the Dospat district referred to in Colonel Wilson's Report No. 1 of his visit to Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 156.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 362.)
Philippopoli, November 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to forward to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 357 of the 26th October, a French translation of the Governor-General's speech on the opening of the Provincial Assembly. In this address especial attention is called to the financial condition of the province, and it would no doubt be wise on the part of the Assembly to take this question into immediate and serious consideration.

The information I have received respecting the present state of the provincial finances and the accuracy of the Estimates contained in the Budget for 1880-81 being still far from complete, I will defer to a future and separate despatch any remarks it may be necessary to make on this subject. I would, however, beg to submit the opinion entertained by those competent to judge that the present difficulty is not so much owing to a deficiency in the resources of the province as to the totally disproportionate expenditure on one branch of the Administration. It would appear that the Government are aware of this, since they have proposed to the Assembly to make a considerable reduction in the force of the militia. I am, however, informed that there is little likelihood of this proposal being favourably received.

The Governor-General's speech also alludes to the Kirdjali and Aïdos occurrences, and your Lordship will observe that his Excellency's language in reference to these sad events is adjusted to the lenient action which has throughout been taken by the authorities in the matter. As regards the punishment stated by his Excellency to have

been inflicted on the offenders, I have failed to learn that any sentences whatever have been passed on the persons implicated in the Aïdos outrages, and, as I have already reported, the severest punishment dealt out by the Hasskeui Tribunal for the crimes committed at Kirdjali was three months' imprisonment.

Perhaps the most satisfactory part of Aleko Pasha's speech is that referring to the recent growth throughout the province of labour and activity, which his Excellency considers to be a proof of the confidence which the Government inspires in the minds of the different populations. I am happy to be able to say that the information I have received bears out this statement. A marked improvement has taken place in the condition of the Mussulman population, and the relations between the different nationalities are certainly more friendly.

I shall not fail to carefully watch the proceedings of the Assembly and to report to your Lordship the substance and bearing of the draft laws as soon as they have been presented.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 157.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 536.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 5, 1880.*

THE sentence of death pronounced by the court-martial last May on Veli Mehmed for the assassination of Lieutenant-Colonel Kommerau has not yet been carried into execution. The Russian Ambassador, after consultation with his colleagues, has addressed to them a note inviting them to attach their signatures to the document, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith, calling on the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to state when the sentence will be executed.

The document in question has been submitted to the Ambassadors of Persia, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, France, and Austria-Hungary, and also to the Representatives of Greece, Roumania, Spain, Sweden and Norway, Servia, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the United States of America.

In compliance with M. Novikow's request, and in accordance with the sanction I have received from your Lordship, in your despatch No. 337 of the 4th August last, I have not hesitated to sign this paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Joint Note to the Porte respecting Execution of Sentence on Colonel Kommerau's Murderer.

LA cour-martiale qui avait été constituée pour le jugement de Veli Mahomed, assassin du Lieutenant-Colonel Kommerau, a prononcé contre lui, en Mai dernier, une sentence de mort.

Plusieurs mois se sont écoulés depuis cette condamnation, et les Soussignés constatent avec surprise que rien n'a encore été fait pour sa mise à exécution.

Péniblement frappés d'un rétard aussi inexplicable et justement émus des conséquences que l'impunité de l'assassinat peut avoir pour la sécurité des étrangers en Turquie, les Soussignés se voient dans la nécessité de demander à son Excellence Assim Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté le Sultan, de vouloir bien leur faire savoir quand enfin il sera donné satisfaction à la conscience publique par la mise à exécution de la sentence portée contre le coupable.

Les Soussignés, &c.

No. 158.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 548.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1880.*

HAVING an opportunity yesterday of speaking privately to His Majesty the Sultan, I mentioned the subject of the article published in the "Terdjumani Hakikat" against this Embassy, for which that newspaper had been suppressed, and I requested as a favour of His Majesty that the suspension should be removed. We were accustomed in England to liberty of the press, and I had no wish that a newspaper should cease to appear because it had made an attack on English policy. His Majesty would scarcely allow me to finish my sentence before he commenced to reply in a very animated manner, and indeed at greater length than, as it appeared to me, his first Dragoman was able to reproduce in translating. The substance of what His Majesty said was to the effect that the editor of the "Terdjumani Hakikat" had been warned several times that he was writing very indiscreetly, that in such troublous times greater prudence on the part of the press was absolutely necessary, and that the article in question affected the Government and His Majesty as well as myself. We were indeed "solidaires" in the matter. His Majesty had not been so angered for a long time as he had been on this occasion, and thus with every desire to be agreeable to me, he regretted to be unable to order the removal of the suspension. His Majesty added that great trouble had been taken to discover who had inspired the article. The editor had been summoned to the Palace and cross-examined. Money had even been offered for the discovery of the real author, but nothing could be ascertained.

I said very little in reply as there is not a person in Constantinople who does not believe that Said Pasha, the Prime Minister, was at the bottom of the article; but I remarked in the end that it was very unfortunate that rumours, whether false or not I could not say, were current all over the town that there was a connection ("liaison") between the Prime Minister and the "Terdjumani Hakikat," that this had given the article much importance, and that it had been telegraphed to all the capitals. His Majesty hurriedly said that he was aware of these rumours, and that it was undoubtedly true that this apparent belief increased the importance of the matter. He begged me not to press the removal of the suspension, and he hoped I would make it clearly understood in England that neither his Government nor himself could possibly approve of such an article.

His Majesty concluded by expressing his profound regret at what had happened.

It is my duty to state that I have never seen His Majesty speak with more earnestness and vigour than on this occasion; at the same time it is an absolute fact that an English gentleman knew the day before the article appeared that an article violently attacking the English policy was to be published on the following day, and that the paper would be suppressed in consequence. It seems clear, too, from all I have heard, that the plan was concocted by what is called the violent party in the Palace, but, as is evident now, without the knowledge of His Majesty.

I shall not fail to inform the Prime Minister when I see him of what will be the strict truth, namely, that I regret the suppression of the paper as cutting off a valuable source of information with regard to the views and feelings of an apparently very powerful party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 159.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

E. C.
(No. 554. Extender.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1880.*
My Lord,

I HAVE informed your Lordship by telegram of the substance of the conversation which passed yesterday between His Majesty the Sultan and myself on the subject of Dulcigno.

I did not think it would be of any advantage whatever to renew what is termed "pressure" on His Majesty with regard to the necessity of its surrender. If His Majesty has not been convinced by the arguments which all the Ambassadors have been

using during the last three months; it would be of no avail to repeat them, unless accompanied by actual menace. I therefore simply inquired what news His Majesty had received as to the proceedings of Dervish Pasha. His Majesty informed me that the General had summoned a meeting of the Chiefs of the Albanian League, at which two representatives from Dulcigno had also been present, and that the meeting had unanimously resolved to send messengers to Dulcigno to recommend surrender. His Majesty entertained the strongest hopes that the mission would be successful. I sounded His Majesty as to his intentions with regard to force being used in the event of persuasion failing. His Majesty did not in any way evade the question, but stated very plainly that he could not give orders to fire upon the Albanians; it would put him wrong with all his subjects.

I made some inquiries as to why His Majesty now believed in the probable persuasion of the Albanians, while hitherto they had proved so obdurate. He then repeated to me very much the same statement as I have reported to your Lordship as having been made by the Sultan to Count Hatzfeldt, namely, that he thought that his own wishes and the necessities of the case had never been sufficiently explained, never "explicitly and thoroughly" stated, to the Albanians before. The difficulties of communications between Turkish officials and the Albanians were so great. He had confidence that Dervish Pasha would be able to plead the necessities of the situation so clearly before them that there would be no more hesitation. Lande would be offered elsewhere in exchange, and every means taken short of active coercion.

I informed His Majesty that the annual banquet at Guildhall would take place to-day, when the members of Her Majesty's Government have an opportunity of making political statements, and that it would have been of much advantage if the termination of the Dulcigno question could have been announced. His Majesty seemed greatly struck with the idea. He repeated his hope that in the course of the day, or, if not, then at latest the next day, the news of the solution of the difficulty would arrive, and he would send me a message at once.

After I had left His Majesty, he sent Munir Bey, who had interpreted at the audience, to me to say that he hoped I should in any case telegraph to your Lordship that he had the strongest hopes that the news of the termination of the difficulty would at once arrive. His Majesty's anxiety in this respect is apparent from the fact that this morning I received a note from Munir Bey, dated last night, stating that no news had arrived, but that the successive telegrams received that day and the day before had been such as to induce the hope ("faire espérer") that the news expected that night or the next day would be very satisfactory. He hoped, therefore, I would telegraph in that sense to London.

There have been so many similar occasions on which similar hopes have been expressed and have been most signally disappointed that I must confess to feeling little confidence that His Majesty will receive the good news he expects. On the other hand, I can conceive no motive which could induce His Majesty to wish that Mr. Gladstone should make a statement on the Sultan's authority to-night which might prove erroneous in a couple of days.

I believe that the truth, at this moment, is that the Sultan earnestly hopes that the difficulty may be terminated, but that his fear of the consequences of firing on the Albanians is stronger than his fear of disappointing the Great Powers. The truth probably is that His Majesty thinks that, in view of the Greek question, he cannot afford to alienate the Albanians. Some apprehension may exist in his mind and in that of his advisers that if the Albanians are coerced on this occasion, they will argue that they will be equally coerced when the Greek question is undertaken, and that, under this apprehension, they might not be disinclined to listen to overtures from the Greeks. Negotiations between the Greeks and the Albanians would be an eventuality which the Turks would dread more than other possible combinations.

Before this despatch reaches your Lordship, it will probably be known whether Dervish Pasha's mission has failed like all the others, or whether one real step forward has been made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 160.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 118. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, November 16, 1880.

THE newspapers here have not hitherto taken special notice of the Prime Minister's late speech, but I have heard, on good authority, that it has made favourable impression on Prince Bismarck.

The Chancellor would, however, still seem under the impression that there may be secret negotiations between England and Russia.

I have strenuously maintained that whatever may be the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the surest mode of obtaining from the Porte the fulfilment of her obligations, Her Majesty's Government have always acted with perfect loyalty towards the Powers as regards the maintenance of the concerted action, and have always deprecated the idea of separate action, so that there can be no possible grounds for suspecting the existence of secret negotiations with any one Power.

Although Prince Bismarck would dislike plan of England using coercion in conjunction with another Power, and in a less degree even if she were alone, he would remain neutral in such event.

In consequence, however, of his present good relations with the Sultan, he fancies that he will be able, by diplomatic pressure alone, to persuade His Majesty in time to settle pending questions.

Even if cession of Dulcigno were indefinitely delayed, which Prince Bismarck will not for a moment believe possible, it is almost certain that he would still discountenance use of force. Should the cession be effected, he would, for this reason, be most anxious to withdraw at once, and entirely [?] German naval contingent.

In respect to Financial Commission, I believe he would not now object to its convocation, if all the other Powers agree to it, and that he would send Delegate.

No. 161.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 764.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 16, 1880, 6 P.M.

OF what nationality are undermentioned persons, whose conduct is censured in Colonel Wilson's Report on Eastern Roumelia of the 26th August?—Mutefski, the Prefect of Philippopoli, the Prefect of Haskeui, De Toustain, Captain Zacheroff, Sub-Lieutenant Dobref, Prefect of Bourgas, Captain Popovitch.

No. 162.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

E MS.
(No. 692.)

Foreign Office, November 16, 1880.

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador read to me to-day a despatch which he had received from M. de Giers describing the course of affairs at Dulcigno as very discouraging, and as little likely to lead to the surrender of the district to Montenegro.

M. de Giers points out that experience has taught us how little credit is to be attached to the professions of the Turkish Government, and his Excellency regrets that the Powers should have allowed themselves to be put off by the promises made on the part of the Porte instead of continuing the firm conduct upon which England and Russia were agreed.

I acknowledged to Prince Lobanow that there was only too much truth in this observation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 163.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 340. Political. Confidential.)

Cettinjé, November 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Voïvoda Elix Plamenaz, the Montenegrin Minister for War, has been for several months past in Vienna, on the plea of seeking medical advice, but I now learn that he has been engaged, with the assistance of the Austrian Government, in making arrangements for the purchase of 6,000 breech-loading Wendel rifles, of exactly the same pattern as those supplied to the Imperial and Royal Government, and of from 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 cartridges for these arms.

The Austrian Government had consented to endeavour to obtain the same facilities for the Montenegrin Government as accorded to itself by the manufacturers, and that the delivery of the arms should be completed during the present winter. I am informed, however, that some surprise has been now experienced at Vienna on finding that Voïvoda Plamenaz wishes to increase his order from 6,000 to 16,000, and even 20,000 rifles, and that he is very pressing for their early delivery.

I have not understood that any difficulties will be made by the Austrian Government to permit the supply of the increased number of rifles, provided satisfactory arrangements are made for the necessary payments, and this, it is expected, will be compassed, as there is reason to believe that the Montenegrin Government can count on Russian assistance.

It is a matter of astonishment to me that, whilst the Austrian Government is evidently jealous of the secret share taken in the transaction by Russia, it nevertheless continues to help Montenegro to assimilate its armament with that of its own troops, and does not object, apparently, to make the Principality a kind of frontier depôt of breech-loading arms and ammunition.

Four millions of cartridges were given to Prince Nicholas last winter by the Austrian Government as a reward for his correct attitude whilst the occupation of the Herzegovina and Bosnia was being carried out, and now, although there are already upwards of 16,000 Wentzel, from 7,000 to 8,000 Krinka, and from 2,000 to 3,000 Peabody-Martini and Snider breech-loading rifles in the Principality, it is still the Austrian Government which is facilitating the introduction of weapons to supply an army which does not exceed 22,000 men, and which has hardly need to keep pace in its armaments with the most advanced military Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 164.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 341. Political. Confidential.)

Cettinjé, November 10, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my Confidential despatch No. 340 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to furnish your Lordship with some further particulars concerning the contemplated new armament of the Montenegrin troops.

The money with which the rifles and ammunition are to be bought, it is said, has become available in the following manner:—

Last year, when the Principality was threatened with famine through a failure of its crops, a loan of 900,000 roubles was contracted by the Montenegrin Government with a bank at Odessa on the personal guarantee of the Emperor Alexander that the debt would bear an interest of 6 per cent. per annum, and be discharged in four years by four separate payments, the first of which would become due in December 1880.

Indian corn was purchased in Russia with the proceeds of the loan, and the grain distributed to the Montenegrins according to the exigencies of each individual case, either gratuitously, or for cash, or for future payment.

Through an act of Imperial grace, the first instalment for the repayment of the debt, and which the Montenegrin Government asserts it has already collected to the amount of upwards of 300,000 florins, has now been retarded to December 1881, in order that the Principality may have the means for renewing without delay its armament, already rendered most inefficient by the wear and tear of the late war.

With regard to the detail of the money in the Montenegrin Treasury, there is a divergence in the statements of my informants, those of an Austrian source maintaining that the 300,000 florins have not been collected, and that a further Imperial guarantee has been given to another Russian bank to cover the engagements of Voïvoda Plamenaz with the Austrian manufacturers.

A person who is in the confidence of the Prince assures me that the Austrian Government will not be able to prevent the Montenegrin Government from obtaining all the rifles it may require, as it is already pledged on the subject with His Highness; but that, doubtless, it has been greatly surprised to find that the Principality is in the position to put itself into a state of efficiency on such advantageous terms.

The Austrian Government, immediately after the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, and up to the early spring of last year, endeavoured by every means in its power to draw towards itself the confidence of Prince Nicholas, and by paying as close an attention as possible to his wishes; and His Highness, to show his appreciation of this treatment, at once accepted the offer of assistance to build a carriage road from Cattaro to Lake Scutari, passing through Cettinjé and terminating at Rieka.

No other condition was put forward by the Austrian Government for the large facilities in engineers, tools, and money it supplied than that the work should be prosecuted with all practicable speed. The engagements entered into have been faithfully observed on both sides, and the road would have already been completed in its whole length if the unfortunate Albano-Montenegrin complications had not supervened; but, even now, it is expected that in a few weeks it will be terminated as far as Cettinjé, and before next summer entirely finished to Rieka.

I have reason to know that Prince Nicholas' anxiety to arm his people with an efficient weapon has arisen from the conviction that the road in question has been required of him to facilitate ulterior Austrian views in North Albania. His Highness is determined, and believes himself quite able, to prevent his country from being transformed into an Austro-Hungarian high road into Albania; but whether he is justified in placing such confidence in the defensive power of his people and rocks, when a perfect road traverses the Principality, is a question which only competent military men may venture to pronounce upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 165.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 33. Political.)

"Monarch," Teodo Bay, Cattaro, November 12, 1880.

My Lord,

THE following information has been collected from various sources in Scutari and transmitted by messenger to Antivari, from whence it has been telegraphed to me by Lieutenant Caillard, viz.:—

On the 10th instant Dervish Pasha addressed the Mussulman Chiefs at Scutari and told them they must yield, as matters had reached such a pass that either Dulcigno or Stamboul must be lost.

The Mussulmans gave no answer until they had consulted with the Catholic Albanians, who, in their turn, demanded a month's time to consider their reply.

Dervish Pasha is stated to have objected to this delay, but the Albanian Chiefs continue to insist on having a month's time allowed to them to give an answer.

It is stated that the Albanian Chiefs do not at all believe that Dervish Pasha is empowered to use force against them.

Riza Pasha has left Scutari, it is supposed for Salonica.

A reinforcement of 800 Albanians are reported to have arrived at Dulcigno from Prisrend, Gusinjé, Dibree, and Scutari since Dervish Pasha took over command.

The total number of Turkish regular infantry at Dervish Pasha's disposal now amount to seventeen battalions.

The Montenegrins have at present on the frontier between the lake and the sea only three battalions, but in three days' notice could augment this force up to a total of about 5,000 men with ten guns.

The Montenegrins have not the least faith in the honesty of Dervish Pasha's declared intention to hand over Dulcigno.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 166.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 17, 5·35 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 17, 1880.

IN consequence of the acceptance of the Austro-Hungarian commercial demands, the Russian Minister is actively intriguing with M. Ristich and his party to overthrow the present Administration at the approaching elections for the new Skuptchina.

Under the pretext of assisting at the inauguration of a monument at Alexandrinatz in honour of the Russians killed during the Servian-Turkish war, he is making a regular electioneering tour in the interior of the country.

No. 167.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 555.) *Constantinople, November* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I SPOKE to the Foreign Minister yesterday in strong terms of remonstrance with regard to the delay of the Porte in sanctioning the Award of the Boundary Commission. I asked him whether there was any hitch. He assured me there was none. The papers had been sent to the Palace a fortnight ago, and he had no doubt that the Sultan's sanction would be given at once. Nearly all the Ambassadors had pressed him on the subject like myself.

I then spoke of the Slave Trade Convention, and asked whether in that case, too, the assent of His Majesty to the insertion of the French text in the Convention could not be obtained. His Excellency begged me to wait a very few days longer. He asked me not to urge the point just at this moment, but did not explain where the difficulty lies.

Your Lordship is aware that this is a matter on which the Porte has been continually pressed by me during many months.

I spoke to the Prime Minister the same afternoon about the question of piracy in the Persian Gulf, and informed him that my note of the 7th July had remained unanswered. I warned his Highness of the unpleasant question which might arise if the Porte did not enter into some arrangement with Her Majesty's Government, and pointed out that it was impossible to permit the continuance of the present state of things. His Highness promised to look into the matter, but he did not give me the impression that he attached much importance to the subject. I send a reminder to the Foreign Minister, couched in strong terms, with reference to my last note, but I would respectfully submit that if the Porte refuse to come to any arrangement, or delay the question further, the Commanders of Her Majesty's ships in the Persian Gulf should act with vigour against the pirates, and pursue them, if necessary, within the territorial waters of the Porte.

The attitude of the Turkish Government on every question connected with our trade and our just international rights appears to be not only so unfriendly, but in many cases so arbitrary that nothing short of rather high-handed proceedings are likely to bring them to reason.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 168.

Mr. Greene to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 347.) *Athens, November* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Corbett's despatch No. 336 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report the arrival here yesterday of 250 additional volunteers from Galatz and the Danubian ports; 100 more are also expected immediately.

The Greek community of Costanga, a port on the Danube, have formed a Committee to collect money for the transport of volunteers to Greece, devoting any surplus funds to the Red Cross Society, and they are also preparing to send a cargo of wheat for the use of the Greek army.

The Government are, however, unwilling to enrol further numbers of these

volunteers in the ranks, owing to want of clothing and necessary supplies for their requirements, and have given an unofficial intimation to this effect to the various communities.

The Greek Committee at Bucharest has, in consequence, discontinued the dispatch of volunteers to this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CONYNGHAM GREENE.

No. 169.

Mr. Greene to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 18.)

E
(No. 348.)

Athens, November 11, 1880.

My Lord,

THE debate on the Address in reply to the King's Speech, which had been postponed for two days in consequence of the death of M. Zaimis, was opened yesterday in the Chamber.

Previously to its commencement, M. Coumoundouros informed the House that he was unable to lay upon the table the diplomatic correspondence of the Government, as he had intended to do, because he considered that its production would be detrimental to the interests of the country at the present moment.

M. Tricoupi then rose and addressed the House in a long and effective speech. He said that a great wrong had been done him by the refusal of the Government to bring forward the documents which would have justified his proceedings, and he demanded their production not as a late Prime Minister, but as the least of citizens. He defended his action in the matter of issuing the Mobilization Decree and negotiating a new loan without the previous consent of the Chamber, on the ground that he had done so in consequence of the absence of the King from the country; and, in support of this statement, he called upon M. Coumoundouros to refer to the correspondence of the late Government with their Representatives in foreign countries, and with the King, which was to be found in the Foreign Office.

The Prime Minister replied that he had not found any of the documents in question at the Ministry.

M. Tricoupi, however, insisted that they were extant in the archives, including the telegraphic communications which had passed between the King and himself; he had, he said, copies of them in his own possession, as well as the letters which he had exchanged with His Majesty, and which he retained in his own hands as private papers. He did not, however, make mention of the King's name to cover his own responsibility.

He then went on to say that as soon as the award of the Berlin Conference had been made known he had hastened to come to an understanding with the Powers, with a view to the organization of a sufficient force for the occupation of the ceded provinces. They had, in reply, indicated to the Government that the time had not yet arrived to make preparations, that they themselves would point out the moment for doing so, and that Greece must await the reply of the Porte to the European decision. On the issue of the answer of Turkey the Powers had, one after another, ceased to represent to Greece that they were opposed to the Mobilization Decree. England had been the last to do so, but she too had given her consent. This he was at liberty to disclose, owing to the previous statements on the subject made by Sir Charles Dilke in the House of Commons.

The delay in the return of the King to the country, and the consequent postponement of the summoning of the Chamber, had been due to two causes: firstly, the advice His Majesty had received from foreign Cabinet Ministers, and secondly, his engagements to visit certain European Courts.

Finally, M. Tricoupi declared that the present Government had brought forward no new policy of their own; they had merely followed in the footsteps of their predecessors. They had adopted the scheme of the late Government for a loan of 62,000,000 francs, and were now endeavouring to obtain a further advance, but hitherto without success, whereas he (M. Tricoupi) when in office was about to effect a loan abroad of 80,000,000 francs at an interest of 7½ per cent.

The recruiting for the army was falling off owing to the undecided policy of the Government, who had submitted no original plan of action to the Chamber. Even the Mobilization Decree had not been laid upon the table for the ratification of the House.

He concluded by saying that the Address, as proposed by the Government, would

destroy the good impression produced on Europe by the King's Speech, which had convinced the Powers that they must not abandon Greece now, but that it was imperative upon them to make the Greek question their special care. The whole draft of the Address must be returned to the Committee for revision.

M. Coumoundouros then stated that he would reply to M. Tricoupi as soon as he had read the documents referred to by the latter; and the House at once adjourned until to-day.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a précis in translation of the speech of M. Tricoupi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CONYNGHAM GREENE.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Précis of M. Tricoupi's Speech delivered in the Chamber on the 10th November, 1880 in the Debate on the Address in reply to the King's Speech.

M. TRICOUPI said that the Government ought to support their own work, namely, the Address. That a great wrong is done to him by the Government, who have declined to bring forward the documents which could have justified his proceedings. He requests them to do so, not as late Prime Minister, or a Deputy, but as the least of citizens. (Loud applause. The President orders the evacuation of the Tribunes.) "For me this debate will be useful, because I shall prove that whatever I did was done by the consent of the nation. . . . You must examine the question in its substance, and not as a matter of form. . . . I reject your clemency. We do not wish to have our proceedings pardoned by you. If you are convinced of the truth of what you say, you may impeach me before the High Tribunal. I am certain that that Tribunal will lay the blame on you. . . . There were reasons which induced us to issue the Mobilization Decree. . . . Two months had scarcely elapsed since our accession to power when signs indicated that the time for action in the Greek question was at hand. The elections in England showed that a change in the Government of that country was not improbable. In a short time the change really occurred. The party which came into power had publicly assumed obligations towards the English nation to work on behalf of the Greek question. At once we set ourselves to work. . . . We gave orders for war material, and we commenced then to negotiate a loan. The Opposition at that time blamed us for disbanding the army, because we sold some wretched mules and horses. But we worked in silence, because we were obliged to do so. . . . But why did we not summon the Chamber at once? I will tell you the reason. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there are documents received from our Ministers abroad. There are also documents proceeding from the Sovereign, who went for a tour in Europe for private reasons, but in the meantime he was fortunate enough to work also on behalf of the country. I believe that the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs did not read those documents."

M. Coumoundouros.—I did not find any of them.

M. Tricoupi.—I think that if he had read those documents he would not have supported the proposal in the Address (which is his own work). . . . I fortunately have copies of those papers, and I might produce them. I can also point out to the Prime Minister in what pigeon-hole they are to be found in the Office of the Ministry; one of the clerks knows where they are. . . . The telegraphic correspondence between myself and the King is in the Office of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The correspondence by post is in my own hands, because I consider it as private. From that telegraphic correspondence the Minister for Foreign Affairs can be informed what were the negotiations which our Sovereign was engaged upon at that time. I do not mention the King's name to cover my responsibility; whatever the King was doing abroad, he was doing it with the consent of the Government. . . . In the bundle of telegrams the Minister for Foreign Affairs will see that when the mobilization was decided upon, the Ministry was of opinion that the Chamber ought to have been called at once. But the information which the Government obtained from the Ministers and from the King were to the effect that we ought not to hasten to call together the Chamber. As to the mobilization, the Prime Minister will see that it was only ordered to take place when the Powers had changed their opinion for its postponement. As soon as the Arbitration decision of the Conference was issued, the Government thought that it would have been expedient to have a force which might be called upon to occupy the conceded provinces. But before ordering the organization of such a force, they hastened to come to an understanding with the Powers who took part in the Conference. The Powers said to Greece, we have adjudicated that territory to you; we must point out to you when you must prepare, and we are of opinion that the time has not yet arrived to do so; probably the time will come when the communication of the decision of the Berlin Conference to Greece and Turkey will be made, and when we see what Turkey's reply will be. The reply was given by Turkey, and all the Powers, one after another, ceased to represent to the Greek Government that they were opposed to the issue of the Mobilization Decree, and, last of all, England gave up its representation concerning the postponement of the mobilization. I can make such disclosures, because Sir Charles Dilke gave similar explanations before to the English House of Commons. The Greek Government informed the Powers that they hoped to obtain the adjudicated provinces by their action, and consequently they would consult them always, because they thought that they must not throw any difficulty in their way in the execution of a decision accepted by Greece. In this way the Greek Government would always take care not to do anything that may cause obstacles to them. . . .

M. Tricoupi then said that he thought that the Chamber ought not to be called together before the return of the King to Greece, and this return was postponed for two reasons: first, for essential reasons; and, second, for formal reasons. The first was, the opinions which the King had received from foreign Cabinet Ministers; the second was, because he had to pay promised visits to certain Courts. Thus we fixed the 5th September for the day of meeting. But even then doubts were entertained whether the King could return in time. . . . M. Tricoupi then said that the new Government had brought nothing forward to show that they had a plan of their own; they follow the footsteps of their predecessors. Their predecessors had found money, 62,000,000 drachmas; the new Government adopted their scheme. The late Government was negotiating a loan of 80,000,000 fr. abroad at an interest of 7½ per cent. The present Government is unable to find money

M. Coumoundouros.—You suppose so.

M. Tricoupi.—I believe I shall be able to prove my assertion at a subsequent sitting. Not only financial questions, but also other matters have begun to slip through the fingers of the Government. Also military matters are in abeyance. The recruits are coming in slowly now. The reason is, that the present Government has an undecided policy, and the recruits will not readily come in when they see that the Government is in doubt as to what course to take. You have submitted nothing to the Chamber which shows that you are preparing anything of your own. You have not even laid on the table the Mobilization Decree for ratification.

M. Coumoundouros.—We laid on the table other Bills, because we consider the Decree unlawful.

M. Tricoupi.—You have not laid anything. You have not laid any Bill concerning mobilization.

The President.—There is nothing of the sort on the table.

M. Tricoupi then said that the Government by the Address was about to destroy the good impression caused in Europe by the King's Speech. Read the European papers, and you will see that if the mobilization had not been ordered the Greek question would not have existed now. Europe has been persuaded by the King's Speech that it must not abandon Greece, and that the position of Greece is such now that it imposes on them the care of the Greek question.

M. Tricoupi concluded by saying that the whole draft of the Address must be returned to the Committee for revision.

M. Coumoundouros then said that he would reply to M. Tricoupi as soon as he had read the documents referred to by M. Tricoupi, if he should find them.

The Chamber adjourned at 6 P.M.

No. 170.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

E
(No. 623.)

Foreign Office, November 18, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and asked whether I had any further statement to make as to the intended policy of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the Montenegrin frontier and Greek questions. He said that his Government were exceedingly anxious to act cordially with Her Majesty's Government and to follow their lead, and it was very important for them—as the Italian Parliament would shortly

meet, and numerous interpellations on foreign affairs might be expected—to know the line which Her Majesty's Government were prepared to pursue.

I said that I saw no reason to change the opinions which I had expressed to him on a former occasion. Her Majesty's Government did not think that the Powers ought to submit to an indefinite delay in the settlement of the Dulcigno frontier, and they were ready to address the other Powers on the subject when the time arrived for doing so, but that, at present, there would be little use in inviting any joint representation to them, as the reply would certainly be that the surrender of the district to Montenegro was daily expected.

He asked whether the speech made by Mr. Chamberlain at Birmingham was to be considered as indicating the feelings of Her Majesty's Government on the question of Greece. I told him what I had said to M. Hengelmüller with regard to Mr. Chamberlain's first speech, that I did not consider myself responsible for phrases used by my colleagues when away from the Cabinet and addressing their constituents; but that it happened that the report in the German papers of the speech of Mr. Chamberlain had been changed—some sentences interpolated and others varied, so as to alter the sense.

I stated that what Mr. Chamberlain had said about Greece was not official; but, at the same time, I could assure General Menabrea that our policy with regard to Greece was not changed. We had adopted the decisions of our predecessors at the Congress of Berlin as to the Greek frontier; we were responsible, together with other Powers, as to the decisions of the Conference of Berlin. We look to the concert of Europe to carry out that decision. The concert was not broken up; it would not be broken up by any act of ours; but until, by being broken up, our individual liberty was restored, we should not give up the hope of its maintenance for the useful ends it had in view. I was glad to believe that Italy was acting with us on that principle.

Count Menabrea assured me that that was the case, and that, in his opinion, if he might use a soldier's expression, our strategical position was unassailable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 171.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 131. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November 9, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 124 of the 31st ultimo, reporting further outrages which have been perpetrated by brigands in Macedonia, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of two telegrams which I sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the petition telegraphically sent to the Porte by the leading members of the local Turkish and Greek communities urging the dispatch to Salonica of a Special Commissioner with extensive powers for the suppression of brigandage.

The rumour is current here to-day that the petition in question has received the favourable consideration of the Porte, and that Ali Pasha, late Vali of Adrianople, will be sent here as Special Commissioner.

In the meantime, I regret having to report the perpetration of further outrages in the district of Catterina.

Three bands of robbers, most of them native Greeks, united under the Chief Teham, and attacked the large village of Colindro, of whose inhabitants they killed two, and cut off the ears and noses of six!

These horrible outrages, the full details of which have not yet reached me, were perpetrated on or about the 31st ultimo.

Nico also has again made his appearance, and is reported to have captured and carried off to the mountains two young Turks from the district of Caraferia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, November 4, 1880, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to my Report to Earl Granville No. 124 of the 31st ultimo, I am told that local influential Beys have telegraphically petitioned the Porte on subject of public insecurity in this province, strongly urging appointment of Imperial Commissioner with extensive powers for suppression of brigandage, and hoping that Abédine Pasha or Moukhtar Pasha will be charged with this mission.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, November 6, 1880, 1:30 P.M.*

THE petition referred to in my telegram of the 4th instant was also signed by the Archbishop and several Greek Notables of this place.

No. 172.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 132. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November 9, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 126 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to further report to your Lordship that the Austro-Hungarian Consul of Prisrend, who had removed his Consulate to Pristina, has found it necessary to take up his quarters in the town of Uscup owing to the excited state of public feeling among the Albanians in the Vilayet of Cossova, caused, it is said, in a great measure by the determination of the Vali, Osman Pasha, to enforce the military conscription.

Persons who have recently come here from Cossova state that turbulence and lawlessness are increasing in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 173.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 343. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 13, 1880.*

THE report coming from Scutari, and telegraphed by me yesterday to your Lordship, as to the determination of the Mussulman inhabitants of that place to continue their opposition to the surrender of Dulcigno, and the information since received by the Montenegrin Government that Dervish Pasha's efforts to secure the peaceful transfer of the town and territory in question to the Principality have resulted in a demand of the Dulcigniotes for a term of thirty-one days to consider the matter, necessitate the following observations.

The decision which has apparently stopped the action of the Ottoman High Commissioner at Scutari cannot be said to emanate from a force which ought for one single moment to be taken into consideration by a Government which asserts its anxiety to carry out its engagements, and which has, on one pretext or another, gradually increased its strength of regular troops in the province from 3,000 to 10,000 men.

The Scutari Mussulman populace, which is now said to have vetoed the Sultan's Iradé, is composed of about from 1,800 to 2,000 armed men, who are entirely under the control of the Beys and Aghas of the town. These Chiefs are mostly in Government employ, or hold fiefs at the will of the Government, and are therefore quite incapable of opposing it in any way. However, if this power could be questioned, the fact remains that nearly all these Mahommedan Scutarines are artisans and shopkeepers, and have

been reduced to great straits through the unsettled state of affairs which has prevailed during the last five years, and inwardly desire a return of peace and quiet, and would gladly see their Beys submitting to order. Another most important truth, fully known to Dervish Pasha, who is now checked by the alleged violence of the populace, is its notorious unwillingness to come into collision either with the authorities or with a resolute enemy.

Therefore, neither the Christian mountaineers nor the Mahommedans of the southern districts of the vilayet having moved, as a whole, in the question of Dulcigno, the Porte can only invoke this fictitious action of the 2,000 Sentarines as being the obstacle now keeping it and the European Powers in check.

With regard to the inhabitants of Dulcigno, they have declared from the commencement that if they were not supported from without they would have to submit to Montenegro. They have been taught to cry resistance; but when the support hitherto extended is withdrawn, the cry will at once die away.

Their demand for a month to think over the question of surrender is but one of the many subterfuges already resorted to by the Turkish authorities in the present case, as also in those of Spuz-Podgoritza, Gusinjé-Plava, and Tousi, and, should it retard affairs but for a week or a fortnight, will most probably be followed by a plea that the cession must be suspended until spring, so as not to force the inhabitants who will not submit to Montenegrin rule to abandon their homes in mid-winter.

If the Porte would only understand that the arming and road-making in this Principality is not purely Montenegrin, and that delay is not only convenient to itself, the surrender of Dulcigno might perhaps be less distant than it now appears to be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 174.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 11.)
Prevesa, November 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch, Confidential, of to-day's date, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relating to the military preparations that are taking place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)
Prevesa, November 13, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to the military preparations that are taking place, I have the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that Government rifles (muzzle-loaders) were distributed among the Mussulmans here on the 12th instant. I am also told that earthworks have been thrown up in two or three villages of Arta.

It is rumoured that the Redifs are to be concentrated in Paramithia.

Ferik Zeki Pasha left for Parga on Monday last.

I hear that Greek troops (from 22,000 to 28,000 men) have been ordered to push on to the frontier.

Everybody here seems to be of opinion that a Turco-Greek war is imminent.

The Mutessarif is still at Margariti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 175.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20, 12·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Baosich, November 20, 1880.

THE Montenegrin troops at Sutorman, above Antivari, have been entirely disbanded, only twelve artillerymen remaining. This may be due to heavy rains.

No. 176.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 530. Secret. Extender.)
St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the course of conversation yesterday, Chakir Pasha asked me whether I was aware that several Russian officers had been lately sent in disguise into Armenia with the object of stirring up commotion, and more especially of undermining the influence of the British officers now stationed there in Consular capacities.

On my expressing ignorance of the fact, and some doubt as to its correctness, the Turkish Ambassador said he knew it for certain, and could tell me, in strict confidence, that thirty at least had already started on this mission; he only knew for certain of that number, but he had reason to believe that others had slipped away without his friends hearing of them. Of these thirty officers, twenty had gone into Armenia by way of Bayazid, while the other ten had gone round by the south. They were mostly, if not entirely, Armenian or Circassian officers in the Russian army, and they had been selected for the purpose instead of regular Russian-born officers as less likely to attract attention, and as better suited for holding constant communication with the natives without exciting suspicion.

Your Lordship will not fail to be struck by the similarity of this intelligence to that which the Earl of Dufferin reported in his despatch No. 363, Secret, of the 24th August, regarding the assistance said to have been afforded to Eyoub Khan by Russian officers.

These statements of the Turkish Ambassador are the more interesting, when taken in connection with the Report which (as repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 895 of the 9th instant) Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van had forwarded to Mr. Goschen, viz., that he had heard the Armenians were preparing for revolt, and that Russia had promised assistance, and desired the movement to commence before the winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 177.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 531. Confidential. Extender.)
St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I LEARN from my Roumanian colleague that Baron Jomini has told him that Prince Ourossoff, who for some time past has been designated for the post of Russian Minister at Bucharest, would shortly proceed to the Roumanian capital.

M. Rosetti, in the course of a conversation on various matters, told me that he has of late found that his relations with the Russian Foreign Department are of a more friendly character than had at one time been the case. He added that Russia now showed symptoms of desiring the friendship of Roumania; and I gathered from what he went on to say that Roumania, if driven to choose between an alliance with Austria or one with Russia, would see less danger to herself in accepting the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 178.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 538.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 15, 1880.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 558 of the 30th ultimo, I took an opportunity, a few days ago, of handing to Baron Jomini the inclosure relating to the refugees of Karamanja which was annexed to Colonel Wilson's revised Report.

Baron Jomini said he would look into the matter when he had leisure. In the meanwhile, he could tell me that M. de Giers had forwarded a despatch from Prince Tserleteff respecting Eastern Roumelian affairs, which he would read to me on another occasion as soon as it had been translated into French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 179.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 539.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 17, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith articles from the "Golos" and from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg"* on the speech which Mr. Gladstone delivered at the Guildhall on the 9th instant.

Your Lordship will hardly fail to be struck by the slightness of the notice which the Government organ takes of this important speech.

On comparing the different comments which have been made to me, I am bound to report that Mr. Gladstone's speech has been a disappointment to the Russian public, and has chilled the admiration which was probably, more or less, really felt for the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

Baron Jomini has been very guarded in his allusions to this subject, and has confined himself to regrets at the termination of the European concert, which might, if properly worked out by all parties, have led to such beneficial results for the general peace of the world.

I have argued that Her Majesty's Government cannot be expected to carry out alone a duty which is equally incumbent upon all the Powers, and that they still hope, by patience and concessions, to re-establish the European concert, the importance of which they appreciate apparently more clearly than many of the other Powers who are more directly interested than themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Abstract from the Russian Press.

THE "Golos" of the 12th November (N.S.), 1880, declares that the speech made by Mr. Gladstone at the Lord Mayor's banquet in the Guildhall denotes a complete renunciation of his Eastern policy. He must have known, says the article, that his words would put an end to all hopes of a peaceful solution of the Eastern question and acknowledge the failure of the attempt at "European concert."

The article maintains that Mr. Gladstone's announcement leaves the East to its own fate. The Greeks, Bulgarians of Macedonia and of Eastern Roumelia will again ask themselves what they are to do in the false position they have been placed in by the Berlin Congress, and, being left to their own devices, it is not difficult to foretell the turn that events will take. The failure of combined action of the Powers to compel the Porte to execute the unfulfilled parts of the Berlin Treaty renders that instrument null and void, at least until the Porte of its own accord complies with the demands recently made by Europe.

In conclusion, the article states that by the delivery of such a speech Mr. Gladstone

* The latter will be sent by post.

has lost his high prestige, and that he will henceforward be unable to withstand the attacks of the Conservative party on his Eastern policy, which, for the future, must be one of non-interference in Eastern affairs.

St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1880.

No. 180.

E *Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)*

(No. 548.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 538 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to state that Baron Jomini read to me this afternoon the long despatch written by Prince Tserteleff on the $\frac{1}{30}$th ultimo, reviewing the extracts of Colonel Wilson's Report on the district of Bourgas, which I had communicated to the Imperial Government on the 7th ultimo, as reported in my despatch No. 465 of the 10th October.

Prince Tserteleff, while acknowledging the general fidelity of Colonel Wilson's Reports on matters which he had himself seen and studied, complains that much of the Report is founded upon hearsay; and Prince Tserteleff maintains that such evidence, in these cases, is unworthy of serious attention. The Report of the Rhodope Commission has proved how frequently the good faith of British Agents has been abused by Turkish and Greek intriguers, and he moreover considers that, in this case, the shortness of Colonel Wilson's visit had left him peculiarly open to such unfortunate influences.

Prince Tserteleff denies the accuracy of Colonel Wilson's information as to the causes which led to the resignation of M. Schmidt; he accuses M. Schmidt of having purposely told Colonel Wilson the story in this shape, in order to gain favour in his eyes.

M. Brakaloff, the Prefect, to whom Colonel Wilson attributed much of the evil goings on at Bourgas, had since been removed; so there is no longer any complaint to be made against the Eastern Roumelian Government on this head.

Prince Tserteleff says that, in two cases only, has Colonel Wilson given names and dates. These he will inquire into as soon as he is freed from the press of business under which the trial of Madame Skobeleff's murderers has placed him.

With regard to the assertion made by a Mussulman to Colonel Wilson, that the mosque in his village was used as a Christian church, no name had been given; but Prince Tserteleff presumes Colonel Wilson refers to the town of Yamboli, where, as all the Christian churches had been burned by the Turks during the war, the Russian troops on their arrival established an Orthodox Church in one of the five mosques which existed there, and this is still used for the purpose of Christian worship pending the rebuilding of a proper church.

Prince Tserteleff expresses his contempt for any evidence founded upon reports made by a man of so low and dissolute a character as Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, and wonders how such a nation as Great Britain can still condescend to employ such an Agent.

On one point only does Prince Tserteleff agree with Colonel Wilson, viz., on the faulty composition of the gendarmerie; but for this, he says, it is their independent Chief, General Borthwick, who is responsible, and it is to him that Colonel Wilson should have addressed his reproaches.

Prince Tserteleff describes the present Commander of the Gendarmerie as "the newspaper correspondent Borthwick, whom Sir Henry Layard made a Colonel, and Sir Algernon Borthwick has now had made a General."

In conclusion, Prince Tserteleff says that Colonel Wilson's Report refers to matters which took place in July, since which a marked improvement has taken place, and, therefore, he concludes by thinking there is no reason at present for addressing remonstrances to the Eastern Roumelian Government, which is doing the best it can under very difficult circumstances.

Objectionable as I considered the style of Prince Tserteleff's despatch, I thought it wiser not to raise an angry discussion upon it; so thanking Baron Jomini for the trouble he had taken in reading so long a document, and in having it translated for my use I observed that I could not accept Prince Tserteleff's strictures upon Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, and that, as he had said he could not reply to Colonel Wilson's assertions, because only in two cases had he given names and dates, it seemed odd that he should not reply to either of those in which these useful data had been given.

With regard to the "independence" of Colonel Borthwick, as Chief of the

Gendarmes, that was one of the very points to which it had been my duty to call the attention of the Imperial Government. His Excellency must recollect that I had, not long ago, pointed out how certain Russian officials were interfering with the Chief of the Gendarmerie, and flooding his corps with Russians of various grades.

I did not, however, desire to initiate an unpleasant discussion, which could lead to no good; I preferred to take note of the one point in Prince Tserteleff's despatch, with which I could frankly agree.

The latest reports, which I had received through your Lordship, from Eastern Roumelia, confirmed what he stated of the amelioration of the state of things in that province, and the dismissal of some of the officials, of whose conduct Colonel Wilson had complained in his Report, was a satisfactory sign of progress. This improvement ought to be, and was, I believed, equally agreeable to both our Governments; and, if it had taken place, I claimed that much of it was due to the bold and persistent manner in which the British Agents had fulfilled the disagreeable duty of bringing to light what was wrong.

Baron Jomini showed no desire to dwell upon this matter, and soon turned the conversation on to other subjects.

As the messenger leaves to-morrow morning, I have no time to compare Prince Tserteleff's statements with Colonel Wilson's Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 181.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)

E
(No. 529. Very Confidential. Extender.)

Berlin, November 16, 1880.

My Lord,

UP to the present moment the Berlin press has not taken any special notice of the Prime Minister's recent speech at the Guildhall, but I have learnt on very good authority that Mr. Gladstone's explanations as to the policy which Her Majesty's Government are desirous of pursuing with respect to Turkey have made a favourable impression upon Prince Bismarck.

I gathered, however, from the same confidential source that his Highness was still under the apprehension that secret negotiations might be going on between England and Russia in connection with pending questions.

I thought it therefore my duty to maintain strenuously that, whatever might be the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the surest means of obtaining satisfaction from the Sultan, they had always behaved most loyally towards the Powers while endeavouring to secure concerted action, and had continuously deprecated the idea of separate action; there could not, therefore, be any possible ground for entertaining a suspicion that they were secretly negotiating a different line of policy either with Russia or any other Power.

It appeared, however, that, much as Prince Bismarck would dislike the idea of any combination between England and Russia, or, although in a lesser degree, of any action on the part of even England alone, having for its object the coercion of Turkey, he would not, in either eventuality, depart from a position of strict neutrality.

Owing to the good relations he has been able to establish at Constantinople, his Highness believes thoroughly that, by the employment of diplomatic pressure alone, it will be possible in time to persuade the Sultan to satisfy the wishes of the Powers, and even in the event of the cession of Dulcigno being indefinitely postponed—a contingency which the Chancellor declines to foresee—it would seem as if he would still be equally indisposed to participate in measures of coercion. If, as Prince Bismarck believes firmly will be the case, the cession is shortly effected, he would for the same reason be most anxious to withdraw at once and entirely the German naval contingent.

With respect to the convocation of the Financial Commission contemplated by the 18th Protocol of the Berlin Congress, I am led to believe, from what I have been told, that the Chancellor would not now object to it if all the other Powers were agreed on the subject, and would be prepared to send a Delegate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 182.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22.)

E
(No. 532. Confidential.)

Berlin, November 17, 1880.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 527, Confidential, of the 13th instant, I reported the departure of M. de Radowitz for Athens, and mentioned that he had hopes of being able to convince the Greek Government of the expediency of not precipitating matters.

Since then I have had an opportunity of speaking to the Greek Minister here as to the probability of his countrymen listening to prudent counsels.

M. Rangabé said that, apart from the fact of the army not being yet completely organized, he did not imagine that the Government would be otherwise than willing to prevent, as far as lay in their power, any explosion of feeling in the country which might hasten on events too rapidly.

He had, moreover, great confidence in M. Coumoundouros, with whom he was well acquainted, and who, he was convinced, would not only not back up the war party, but would use all his influence to prevent any undue excitement. The Government, however, had no easy task before them, as, looking to the preparations which had been made and the expenditure that was being incurred, it would be impolitic on their part to proclaim too hastily, or to insist with too great zeal on the necessity of the people restraining their eagerness to obtain possession of what they had been led to suppose the Powers had procured for them.

Such insistance on the part of the Government would have the appearance of want of sympathy, and might be interpreted by the people as a sign that their rulers were abandoning them.

If such feelings were once created, they would be very difficult to calm, and it was therefore very necessary that both the Government and the Powers should exercise considerable prudence in counselling the adoption of a pacific policy, so as to avoid the risk of raising suspicion with regard to the future.

M. Rangabé assured me that he had spoken in this sense to M. de Radowitz before his departure. He had no reason to believe that Germany would in any way retreat from the position taken up by the Powers at the Berlin Conference in respect to the Greek claim, so long always as she was not called upon to interfere by force.

The Greek Minister seemed to be of opinion that, if nothing was done by next spring towards arriving at a solution of the Frontier question, it might be very difficult indeed to induce the people to abstain from making a push to gain what they believe themselves entitled to.

Upon my asking M. de Rangabé whether he thought his countrymen would ever be brought to accept any other frontier than the one determined by the Conference, he replied that of course he could not say positively that it was quite hopeless to expect they would do so, but he felt sure that it was nearly so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 183.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 760.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 22, 1880, 3·40 P.M.

YOUR despatch No. 527 of the 1st November respecting sale of lands in Thessaly and Epirus.

You may suspend all action. Further instructions will be sent to you by messenger.

No. 184.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22, 5 P.M.)

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, November 22, 1880.

FOREIGN Minister tells me that very favourable telegrams have been received from Dervish Pasha, who expects to be at Dulcigno with four battalions to-day. Four others are proceeding to Dulcigno by another route.

No. 185.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1880, 6·15 P.M.*

SEE Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 362 of the 22nd, of which substance has been repeated to you.

I have instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to ask Russian Government to advise Prince of Montenegro to be prepared.

No. 186.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 22, 1880, 3·45 P.M.*

ANOTHER week has passed, and Albanian news [? promises] nothing more than a continuation of deceptions of last two months; [? all the] ships, troops, and even cavalry said to be expected by Dervish Pasha should attach but ridicule to his proceedings, and Montenegrins are so persuaded that the daily Turkish promises of a solution [? through] Austrian channels are valueless that they have withdrawn nearly all their forces from Antivari.

As far as depends on Montenegro and Turco-Albanian action, nothing is likely to occur to bring to a term the presence of combined fleet at Cattaro. This, I believe, will only happen when Porte ceases to fix its own time for surrender.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 187.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22, 11 P.M.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 22, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

THE following telegraphed by M. Bojo Petrovich from Antivari to Government here:—

"This morning Dervish Pasha, while marching towards Dulcigno, met, near Lake Sas, the Albanians, who opened continued fire on the Nizams; musketry and artillery fire continued all day."

From information received by M. Petrovich it appears that there have been as yet no killed nor wounded on either side. From same source it is reported that the Nizams at Dulcigno have been embarked on board a Turkish man-of-war.

(Repeated to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 188.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 22, 1880, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 156 of this afternoon, it is advisable to accept with caution Montenegrin version of bloodless struggle between Turks and Albanians, and to bear in mind that the Pasha may desire to afford natives an opportunity of retiring with what they may consider their honour saved.

There has hardly been time for the Montenegrins to obtain details they give.

(Repeated to Admiral and Mr. Goschen.)

No. 189.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 700.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 22, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 548 of the 9th instant, reporting your Excellency's conversation with the Sultan respecting the suppression of the "Terdjimani Hakikat" for its attack on Her Majesty's Embassy, and Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to His Majesty in favour of its reappearance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 190.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

E
(No. 701.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 22, 1880.*

IN your despatch No. 527 of the 1st instant your Excellency proposes to delay addressing a protest to the Porte against the sale of State lands within the territory assigned to Greece by the Berlin Conference, on the ground that the sales in question are not of an unusual character, but made in the ordinary course of the administration of the State lands of the Porte, and further, that such a protest might affect the titles of those who had purchased the lands prior to the receipt of such a protest.

With reference to these objections, I would observe that by virtue of the decision of the Berlin Conference, the Greek Government has an inchoate right and title to the territories within the new frontier thereby assigned to Greece, and is consequently justified in objecting to any part of those territories being dealt with by the Porte in a manner detrimental to the interests of Greece.

In the opinion of the Greek Government it is detrimental to their interests that the State lands of the Porte which are to form part of the new territories of their country, and for which the Porte will hereafter receive compensation, should be converted into private estates by sale to private individuals; and the only effectual mode of preventing such conversion is by publicly notifying that such sales will not be recognized by the Greek Government.

As regards sales of State lands made before such notice, it is not likely that the purchasers would be ejected without being reimbursed the purchase-money, as in any case the State lands must be paid for, and whether the compensation be paid to the Porte or to the purchaser from the Porte would be a matter of indifference to the Greek Government.

It does not appear to me, therefore, that the course which your Excellency was requested to adopt in my despatch No. 584 of the 12th ultimo would be attended with injustice or loss to the purchasers.

On further consideration, however, I am disposed to agree with your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are not called upon to take the step of intervening in this matter, and that it is the duty of the Greek Government to make such protest, and give such a notice as they may think necessary to assert and vindicate their rights.

The instructions contained in my despatch No. 584 of the 12th ultimo may, therefore, be considered as cancelled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 191.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

E
(No. 504. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 22, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 525, Secret, of the 8th instant, reporting that Baron Jomini had hinted strongly at a desire on the part of Russia for an intimate alliance with this country, and I approve the general nature of your reply to his observations.

Should his Excellency again press you to speak on this subject, I have to request you

to assure him that it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government to be on friendly terms with Russia, and to avoid all unnecessary antagonism, such as has often been the case, on questions which jointly interest the two Governments. You will, however, explain to to him that we have no wish for special alliances with any particular countries, as such engagements would prevent us from using our influence to maintain good relations among all the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 192.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 762.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 22, 1880.

YOUR Excellency commented in your despatch No. 728 of the 11th instant upon the conversation of the Prince of Bulgaria with Mr. Lascelles, reported by the latter in his despatch No. 167 of the 1st instant, in which His Highness referred to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin respecting the demolition of the Danubian fortresses and the right of the Turks to occupy the Balkans. Upon the latter point His Highness made certain observations to which you drew attention, which appear to have been of a personal character, and not to have been meant as a statement of the policy of the Bulgarian Government; but on the former point he made a definite suggestion; he said that he would be glad if a Commission of foreign officers could be formed to report upon the fortresses, and decide whether any further demolitions were necessary.

I should wish your Excellency to ascertain whether any intimation of this nature has been made to the Austro-Hungarian Government, and to inquire what would be their view as to the expediency of appointing such a Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 193.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 564.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond on the subject of military preparations in that district, and reporting that a Russian military officer has been attached to the Consulate at Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(Extract.) *Trebizond, November* 5, 1880.

THE Mussulman population was quite indifferent to the Montenegro question, but they evince great interest in the Greek claim, and a war with Greece having for object to oppose the cession of Janina would, I believe, be rather popular.

I have further the honour to inform your Excellency that there are two Cancellieri attached to the Russian Consulate at Trebizond, and that, according to all appearances, one of them is a military officer, a Colonel it is rumoured.

He keeps a number of horses; a Dragoman is attached to his person, and he is continually travelling over the country in all directions.

After having visited that part of the country which extends between the Russian frontier and Trebizond, and pushed as far as Erzeroum to the south, M. Charkowsky has lately begun to explore the western portion of this vilayet. After my departure he visited the district of Kerassond so far as the limit of Ordoo, and followed the Karahissar road nearly up to that town.

Similar movements on the part of military officers attached as Cancellieri to the

No. 194*.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 579.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 16, 1880.

A WEEK has elapsed since I telegraphed to your Lordship, at the Sultan's desire, that the solution of the Dulcigno question might be expected within the next twenty-four hours. I have, however, not been able to report to your Lordship that any great progress has been made. I have been twice at the Porte since last I wrote, and I had the opportunity of speaking to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister last night, but all I can learn is that the telegrams received from Dervish Pasha are satisfactory, and that he is gradually making way.

I suggested to Said Pasha last night that the weather would help them, but he replied, "No, not the weather, but the arrangements made by Dervish Pasha."

My French and Austrian colleagues have both supplied me with information from their Consuls at Scutari, and the last advices were certainly rather satisfactory. I have also received some long telegrams from Mr. Green, but they have been comments on Turkish motives, and speculations as to what the Turkish authorities could do if they liked, rather than news as to actual events. It is quite unnecessary to continue repeating that the Turkish forces are adequate to force the cession of Dulcigno against the will of the Albanians. It is now perfectly known that the Sultan will not consent to apply force.

The sole question remaining is whether the Albanians will yield without it.

It is almost equally believed here, yet certainly not without some exceptions, that the Sultan and his Government wish to persuade the Albanians; and if Dervish Pasha is intriguing, I think that, on this occasion, he will not be fulfilling the wishes of his master.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Russian Consulate at Erzeroum have preceded the last invasion of Anatolia. It is the first time that a military Cancellier is appointed to Trebizond.

There are persistent rumours of a concentration of Russian troops at Kars, but of this Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum is in a better position to inform your Excellency.

I hear that the Armenians in the Caucasus are collecting money for promoting national advancement according to possible eventualities. A Committee has been organized at Tiflis under the name of "Discretion," which has already raised 18,000 roubles for the wounded in Armenia (?).

The Tiflis agency is in communication with Armenians at Constantinople. There is a branch agency at Batoum which has collected 163 roubles, and similar agencies are likely to exist in other places.

At Batoum 5 versts (about 3 miles) of rails have been laid on a line intended to join at Orpiri the Tiflis Railway. The whole line is to be completed in eighteen or twenty months. The portion constructed is in working order, and used for conveying the building materials for barracks which are constructed at about a mile from Batoum, not far from the seashore. Large consignments of bricks are daily received from Europe to hasten their construction. Hydraulic cement is also imported on a large scale.

No. 194.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 571.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 15, 1880.

AFTER a delay of nearly three months, I have received a note from Assim Pasha (of which I inclose a copy) in reply to the communication which I made to Abédine Pasha on the 23rd August, relative to the information supplied by Colonel Wilson that the notorious Ahmet Agha had been Mudir of Dospat.

It is curious that, while denying the identity of the Ahmet in question, the Minister for Foreign Affairs speaks of the "antécédents peu édifiants" of the Ahmet whose official position they admit, and with regard to whom it is added that he had been relieved of his functions before the district passed to Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 11 *Septembre*, 1880.

J'AI pris connaissance de la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu écrire à mon prédécesseur le 23 Août dernier, pour demander une enquête au sujet de la nomination d'Ahmed Agha comme Mudir de Dospat.

En réponse, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que l'enquête faite par les soins des autorités Impériales d'Andrinople et de Salonique a constaté ce qui suit.

Dans le Vilayet de Salonique il n'existe aucun Mudir du nom d'Ahmed. Un moment Robtchoz, commune incorporé depuis à la Roumélie Orientale, a eu, il est vrai, un Mudir appelé Ahmed; mais cet Ahmed, originaire de Tamrich, n'avait rien de commun avec celui de Baratina. D'ailleurs, vu ses antécédents peu édifiants, il a été relevé de son poste avant que la commune de Robtchoz ne passât à la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 195.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 23.)

E C.

(No. 547. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 17, 1880.

BARON JOMINI has not again alluded, except once, and then only casually, to the desire for an alliance with Great Britain, which I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 525 of the 8th instant.

I have seen his Excellency twice since then, and have found him as pleasant and friendly as usual.

He inquired of me to-day when Parliament was likely to assemble, and on my replying that the English papers said it would probably not be summoned before early in January, he expressed his regret that Europe must wait so long to know what was to be its fate. He did not actually say so, but he gave me clearly to understand that on the attitude of Her Majesty's Government depends, in his opinion, the question of peace or war in the spring.

He told me that M. Novikoff, who is now at Livadia, seems rather more hopeful than he was; but M. Yonine reports that the Albanian League, although a creation of the Sultan at its origin, has become a danger with which his Majesty is now really unable to cope, as he dare not offend the chief force on which he will have to rely for defence against the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 196.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 743. Confidential.)
Vienna, November 18, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. STEPHEN reported to your Lordship, in his despatch No. 359 of the 1st instant, that the Papal Nuncio at Constantinople was endeavouring to persuade the Bulgarian Exarch to recognize a Catholic Protectorate of the Bulgarian Church, and that the Emperor of Austria was stated to have expressed himself to Cardinal Jacobini as being favourable to the attempt.

I have asked Baron Haymerle and M. de Kallay what they knew about it, and they both expressed entire ignorance on the subject, of which they said they had heard absolutely nothing.

I observed to Baron Haymerle that, if Cardinal Jacobini had spoken of it to the Emperor, it did not seem impossible that His Majesty might have said that he should be glad to see the Bulgarians acknowledge the authority of the Pope, but that, in my opinion, nothing would be more injudicious than to let it be supposed that Austria was encouraging a Catholic propaganda among the Bulgarians.

His Excellency agreed with me, and said that it was, of course, possible that the Emperor might have used some words such as I suggested, but that he had never heard of it, and did not believe it.

M. de Kallay expressed himself still more strongly upon the inexpediency, as well as the inutility, of attempting a Catholic propaganda among the Bulgarians, remarking that this had been sufficiently demonstrated by the egregious failure of the Uniate movement that was so strongly encouraged by France some sixteen or eighteen years ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 197.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received November 23.)

(Telegraphic.)
Smyrna, November 22, 1880.

ON 18th instant orders were received from Constantinople to call out the reserves of years 1874 to 1877 throughout this province. On 19th, 1,500 soldiers arrived from Beyrout, and left next day for the Dardanelles.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 198.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 23, 9·30 A.M.)

(No. 362.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, November 22, 1880, 11 P.M.

COMMUNICATIONS made to my colleagues to-day confirm news sent in my telegram No. 361 of to-day, but we remain somewhat sceptical. Still, in view of the chance of Dervish Pasha announcing in a few days' time that he is master of the position, I venture to suggest that it may be expedient for Montenegrins to be prepared. It would be most unfortunate if, when Turks should say that they are ready, Montenegrins should not be prepared. I have reason to believe that the Russians will not urge the Montenegrins to move promptly, but, on the contrary, will advise for them great circumspection and possible delay. I would recommend your consulting Russia at once, and agreeing on advice to be given, without, however, letting them know that I have expressed anxiety as to language they will hold.

No. 199.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 910.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, November 23, 1880, 6 P.M.

ENDEAVOUR to come to an agreement with Russian Government to advise Prince of Montenegro to be prepared, as recommended by Mr. Goschen in his telegram No. 362 of 22nd, repeated to you to-day.

No. 200.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.**

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, November 23, 1880, 6 P.M.

FOLLOWING is substance of Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 362 of yesterday:—

"Communications made to my colleagues to-day confirm news sent in my telegram No. 361 of to-day, but we remain somewhat sceptical. Still, in view of the chance of Dervish Pasha announcing in a few days' time that he is master of the position, I venture to suggest that it may be expedient for Montenegrins to be prepared. It would be most unfortunate if, when Turks should say they are ready, Montenegrins should not be prepared."

No. 201.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 23, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.)
Castelnuovo, November 23, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

COMMUNICATION with Antivari is much hampered by Clause XXIX of Treaty of Berlin, which excludes men-of-war from that port.

Would the Austrian Government object to use of the gun-vessels and despatch-boats now employed with fleet as avisos for communicating with Antivari, in order to ascertain what is going on? The Austrians [? unable to] let gun-boat enter port.

If there is no objection, and your Lordship thinks proper, might the Austrian Maritime authorities of the [? port] be informed accordingly?

---

* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 638), Sir A. Paget (No. 828), Sir H. Elliot (No. 831), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 783).

No. 202.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 637.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING is substance of Mr. Kirby Green's telegrams No. 155, 156, and 157 of yesterday:—

"Montenegrins are so persuaded that the daily Turkish promises of a solution are valueless that they have withdrawn nearly all their forces from Antivari.

"Montenegrin Government has received intelligence that there has been long and continued musketry and artillery fire between Albanians and Dervish Pasha's regulars near Lake Sas, but without bloodshed, and that Nizams at Dulcigno have embarked on Turkish war-ship."

This Montenegrin report of engagement, Mr. Green says, must be received with caution. It might be a prearranged affair to enable natives to retire honourably.

No. 203.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 595. Extender.)
Foreign Office, November 23, 1880.

Sir,

IN view of the possibility of Dervish Pasha announcing that his preparations are complete, and that he is in a position to surrender Dulcigno to Montenegro, it appears to Her Majesty's Government very desirable that the Prince of Montenegro should be ready to occupy the district; and I have to instruct you to endeavour to come to an agreement with the Russian Government to give advice to that effect to Prince Nicholas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 204.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

E. C.
(No. 763 A.)
Foreign Office, November 23, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires read to me to-day a despatch from Baron Haymerle, in which he states that he desires to reciprocate the frankness with which I had entered into communication with him, by telling me all the views of his Government on the policy to be pursued in the Eastern question, even extending to the points on which there might be a difference of opinion, although he believes there can be none on which the interests of the two Governments can clash.

The policy of the Government of Austria-Hungary consists in the pursuance of the objects of the Treaty of Berlin in the interests of progress and humanity and the preservation of peace, having regard to the difficulties of the question and the maintenance of the balance of power in the Balkan Peninsula.

They consider that they have their interests in common with the other Governments, and they do not see how the discussion of the means to be adopted for carrying out the Treaty should separate them from Her Majesty's Government. On the contrary, it appears to them that it ought to confirm our understanding.

He reminded me that I had talked of the necessity of not considering that the Eastern question was settled by the possible settlement of the Montenegrin frontier, that it would be necessary to look to the financial question and also the rectification of the Greek frontier. Baron Haymerle put aside for the moment the financial question, as being more of an incidental character. As to the Greek question, his Government by no means abandoned it, not only on account of their sympathy with Greece, but on account of the interest they felt in the Greek element counterbalancing the preponderance of the Slavs.

His Excellency said that I had further told him that I desired the maintenance of the concert of the Powers, but that I doubted the efficacy of mere diplomatic pressure

* Also to Mr. Plunkett (No. 911), Sir A. Paget (No. 827), Sir H. Elliot (No. 832), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 764.)

if it were known that no force would be resorted to. The Imperial Government were of opinion that the concert ought to be of a purely diplomatic character. The first consideration should be the maintenance of peace, for if there was a question of force it would create a feeling of disquietude which would disturb commercial and European confidence as much as a state of war. The decision, moreover, did not rest with Austria, for the German Government would not have joined in the expedition to Smyrna, and if Austria had gone further, and had adopted a more energetic policy, she would have run the certain risk of separation from Germany. It was not her province to discuss what other Powers would do, but his Excellency desired that her action would have a decisive influence on that of the other Powers.

The plain truth was that she did not intend to involve herself in any active proceedings which might involve her in war with Turkey. She would be afraid of the employment of anything like threats, which might compromise her military honour and lead to war. The Austro-Hungarian Government believed that the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin might be obtained by steady moral pressure on the part of the Powers, without any pressure of force, especially if it were known in Europe generally, and in Turkey, that there was a general determination to avoid force. The Dulcigno question showed that all that force can do is to obtain a written promise from the Porte, without its actual performance, the Powers being left to do the work for the minor State.

This would, his Excellency observed, be still more the case as regards the Greeks; the pressure of force might obtain a promise, but the execution of the conditions would be left to the Powers. The Imperial Government did not believe that the Greeks had the strength to fight the Turks, and doubted whether any other Power, bound by the terms of the Self-Denying Protocol, would undertake the burden of such an expedition, which would have only one end, war with Turkey, and the subsequent destruction of that Power. They did not believe in the vitality of Turkey, but they thought Europe would not, and ought not to, do anything to destroy her. It did not seem to be to the interest of Europe, or of Austria, or of the Power most deserving of interest, Greece, to hasten the catastrophe. Greece, indeed, between the Slavs and the Albanians, would suffer heavily if the catastrophe occurred at present, when Europe had not come to any agreement as to what should happen if Turkey were now to come to a sudden end.

The same considerations, said his Excellency, applied to the question of reforms, any pressure respecting which could only result in promises, and not in their execution. The carrying out of reforms required good-will on the part of both giver and receiver, and men and money available were essential for the purpose.

He fully concurred with me as to the delays, tergiversations, and bad faith of the Turkish Government, he had full experience of them in regard to the occupation of Herzegovina and Bosnia. When Her Majesty's Government said that they could not change their policy merely in consequence of the delays and bad faith of Turkey about Dulcigno, it was a remark in which the Austro-Hungarian Government entirely concurred. But they also thought that the Powers ought not to go further than they intended in consequence of such conduct on the part of the Porte.

To resume, they meant to maintain all the demands made upon Turkey, and they meant to carry them out, but, at the same time, they wished not to lose sight of the great want of peace on the part of their own populations, and of the whole of Europe; and of the relative weakness of the populations immediately interested, such as the Greeks.

His Excellency fully acknowledged the straightforwardness and frankness of my communications; he reciprocated them, and he hoped that the fulness of his explanations would convince me of that fact. He regretted that his Government had not been able to concur in every particular, but they did not think that an occasional divergence of opinion ought to diminish the frankness of communications, or disturb the relations with a great and friendly country like England, and they considered that they gave a proof of this when they endeavoured to discuss with Her Majesty's Government points in which they did not agree with us.

I told M. de Hengelmüller that I accepted with real pleasure the assurances which he had been able to give us to the appreciation by Baron Haymerle of the mode in which I have transacted business with the Austro-Hungarian Government. Those assurances would be an encouragement to continue in the same course. I was not blind to the difficulties of the Austro-Hungarian Government, and, though I regretted that there should be some difference of opinion, it would not prevent my endeavouring to act cordially with them, and with the other Powers.

As to the concert, I agreed with what Baron Haymerle had said to the Delegations,

that there was no such thing as an arbitrating Europe which assumed to itself wisdom to enable it to settle every delicate problem, and to undertake and arrange every difficult question. I differed also from the view which some seemed to assume that there was a concert which consisted in England, or any other Power, exercising an ascendency over all the others, and dictating proposals which were not to be altered or amended. But what I believed in as possible was a concert in which each Power should place in due subordination their smaller direct interests, and concentrate their efforts upon general points of great magnitude, such as those of the Eastern question, which was a standing menace to civilization and to the peace of Europe. I firmly believed in the efficacy of such concerted action if it were maintained. The Dulcigno question was a proof of it. The Porte yielded out of fear of a naval demonstration, stimulated by the knowledge that it was the intention of some of the Powers to take a material guarantee. The delays which had previously occurred, and which had arisen since, had been owing to the belief that the Powers were not in earnest on the subject. Baron Haymerle had alluded to the delays which occurred in the settlement of the Bosnia and Herzegovina questions, and to the ultimate success of the Austro-Hungarian Government in overcoming them, but to what was that success owing? It was to the large military force of Austria, and the firm language which had been used with regard to its employment. The Russians had enforced all the conditions which directly influenced them by the actual presence of an army not far from Constantinople.

On the other points of the Berlin Treaty no progress had been made during two years, and the state of things existing when Her Majesty's present Government came into office was described to us as incompatible with the continued existence of the Turkish Empire.

Baron Haymerle had said in the Delegations with great truth, in the midst of a pacific speech, that a nation would lose all weight if it pledged itself to perfect inaction. Her Majesty's Government were determined to make no such pledge. They retained their liberty of action, but they were most desirous of maintaining the concert, and of consulting Austria and the other Powers upon every step which was taken to carry out the intention of maintaining the arrangements of the Congress and Conference of Berlin.

There seemed to me an error which ran through the despatch of which M. Hengelmüller had told me the contents. It seemed to assume that, whereas Austria was desirous of peace, England was burning for the use of force and of war.

I was ignorant of any proposal emanating from ourselves to that effect. The Berlin Conference was a suggestion of the French slightly modified by us. The conclusion there was a French proposal, a little amended by us in favour of the Turks before it was unanimously agreed to by the Powers.

The pledge to apply the naval demonstration to the Greek Frontier question was agreed to by us, and by all the Powers, in consequence of the French having laid down such action as a *sine quâ non* condition of their joining in the Dulcigno naval demonstration.

That demonstration was first suggested by an eminent Austrian statesman, Baron Kállay, though only as between Austria and ourselves; the formal suggestion of it was subsequently made by us in a form which we thought would have a greater moral effect.

I had made no proposal about Greece. I had been one of the first who recommended Greece not to make preparations for war. I was the last, as was stated by the late Greek Prime Minister in a recent speech, to desist from that advice. I had since that time given no advice.

I was quite prepared to join others in advising prudence and moderation, but then I desired to know on what basis that advice was to be given. Was it that Europe abandoned, or maintained, the decisions of Berlin? If the latter, what grounds of encouragement could I with truth offer that, by remaining quiet, Greece would obtain her object?

I asked these questions in order to contribute in co-operation with Austria and others to the conclusion how we could best and honestly promote our views.

I doubted Greece being in a hurry to begin hostilities during the next few months, but she must either give up preparations, or take active measures during the next year. I doubted whether the Greek question, even independently of the good faith of Europe, could safely be let alone.

In the same way, I doubted the financial question being able to settle itself. Things must come to a crisis soon. It seemed desirable that the Powers should consult as to whether one or another course had better be taken.

Circumstances had perhaps given Germany more influence at this particular moment than Austria, England, or probably any other Power. How far that influence would go I did not know, if Germany asked for that which the Turks did not like. But Germany has lately shown some interest in Turkish finances. She had lent financial experts. Her Majesty's Government would only be too happy if by such means real results might be obtained.

The result of these conversations is to make me as desirous as ever of discussing the best means of obtaining our end. The difference which seems to exist is that the Austro-Hungarian Government are inclined to think that things can remain in their present state for a time without great danger, and that pressure can be efficiently applied with an avowed intention of never having recourse to force.

With regard to financial reforms, it is not likely that a question of force would be introduced. With regard to Greece, further communication seems necessary before the exact course to be pursued can be positively settled.

In any such communication the Austro-Hungarian Government may depend upon our language being frank, and upon our strong desire to promote a good understanding.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 205.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 508. Extender.)
My Lord, *Rome, November 12, 1880.*

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegram No. 852, repeated to me in your Lordship's No. 817 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to request your Lordship to inform me whether you desire that I should suggest to the King's Government that leave of absence should be granted to Signor Zerboni, their Consul at Scutari.

It would be difficult for me to avoid quoting the source of the information on which such suggestion is based, in case it is to be made to the Italian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 206.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 528.)
My Lord, *Rome, November 20, 1880.*

THE conversation respecting the proceedings of Signor Scovasso, reported in my immediately preceding despatch of this day, brought Count Maffei to speak to me quite spontaneously respecting the complaints against Signor Zerboni, the Italian Consul at Scutari, which he said had again been mentioned by your Lordship to General Menabrea.

Count Maffei said that, speaking quite confidentially, he feared he must own that there were some grounds for attributing strong Albanian sympathies to Signor Zerboni, and for suspecting that his conduct had been influenced thereby.

In the course of his further observations Count Maffei confirmed the statement made by Count Corti to Mr. Goschen, as reported in his Excellency's despatch No. 400, Confidential, of the 27th September, viz., that it had been his (Count Corti's) intention to remove Signor Zerboni from the sphere of these questions.

Signor Zerboni at that time, Count Maffei said, was Consul at Janina, and as an instance of his tact, Count Maffei mentioned that he wrote a despatch to Count Corti dilating on the miserable figure which Italy had made in the Berlin Congress, which he said was the theme of universal comment!

Count Corti had, however, before this decided to remove him from the East, but owing to his leaving office his decision was not carried out, and it was Count Tornielli who had him appointed to Scutari, probably in consequence of his Albanian proclivities.

I understood from Count Maffei that there had since been more than once a question of giving Signor Zerboni another post, but he said it had now been decided to grant him leave of absence, and to desire him to come home. I said it was so obviously the interest of the Italian Government to follow this course, that it was unnecessary for

me to say anything to support its being acted on at once, for as long as Signor Zerboni was maintained in his present position his conduct would, of course, be supposed to have the sanction and approval of his Government.

Count Maffei requested me to consider as quite confidential the details he had given about Signor Zerboni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 207.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

E
(No. 355.)

Athens, November 18, 1880.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH it is announced from Berlin that M. de Radowitz has left that capital for Athens, M. Coumoundouros tells me he has received no intimation in regard to the nature of the instructions he has received as to pressing upon Greece the advisability of remaining quiet and not provoking a collision with Turkey.

None of my colleagues have received instructions analogous to those which, as stated in your Lordship's telegram No. 42 of the 4th instant, have been furnished to M. de Radowitz.

Since I received your Lordship's instructions, as conveyed to me in your telegram No. 9 of the 25th of June last, I have scrupulously abstained from giving to the late or to the present Government any opinion as to the employment of force by Greece to obtain possession of the frontier recommended by the Congress and Conference of Berlin, though both M. Tricoupi and M. Coumoundouros were anxious to ascertain the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and both showed a disposition to be guided by their advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 208.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

E C.
(No. 356. Confidential.)

Athens, November 18, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Government continue actively their military preparations, and if no measures are taken to prevent them will certainly in the early spring take the initiative in endeavouring to obtain possession of the provinces which they persist in believing have been adjudged to them by the unanimous decision of the Great Powers.

However hopeless a struggle on the part of Greece with Turkey may appear, she is not the less determined to undertake it, and, if beaten, she believes that the Great Powers would interfere in her favour against Turkey.

If, on the other hand, as some think it possible, the Powers should bring pressure to bear on Greece to restrain aggressive action on her part, this country will, it is thought, have obtained the right to call upon Europe to do for her what the former has prevented her doing for herself.

It is felt here that after the pecuniary sacrifices Greece is now making, it is absolutely necessary that something should be done to justify them, and, as the financial ruin of the country would certainly be the result of no increase of territory being obtained, any action is better than to remain idly waiting for the financial catastrophe of bankruptcy.

The position of the King would be seriously endangered if the efforts now making by the nation lead to no satisfactory results. I have been often surprised at the cool manner in which the deposition of the King is spoken of. The Greeks are, however, particularly disposed, when disappointed in their hopes, to make a scape-goat, and in the present circumstances in all probability it would, in case of failure, be the King who would be fixed upon to act in that capacity, although nobody in the country is, I believe, more disposed than His Majesty to carry matters to an extremity.

In this crisis of the fate of the country, the Chamber of Deputies, which has been

a month in Session, has not yet voted the answer to the King's speech on opening the Chamber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 209.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

E
(No. 584. Very Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Constantinople, November 19, 1880.

THE conversation then turned on the Greek question, the Foreign Minister himself introducing the subject. He spoke with reference to the active preparations of the Greeks, and stated that the Porte had resolved not to make an attack, but to defend its territory with all its energy, and he expressed himself confident of success. M. Tissot was anxious to point out to the Foreign Minister the very grave dangers and complications which a war between Turkey and Greece would produce, and he asked whether a rising in Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia must not be expected in such an event, which would create a powerful diversion. Assim Pasha replied, "No, not at the same time." Being pressed as to why he held this view, it appeared he counted on the attitude which Austria and Germany would take in such an eventuality.

I should state that I myself have latterly abstained from any conversation with the Ministers on the Greek question. Whatever may ultimately be decided, I consider that I should be wrong at the present moment in holding any language, or indeed listening to any language on the part of the Ministers without protest, which implied a change of policy on the part of Europe. It was this feeling which made me rather anxious to know whether the subject of the Greek frontier had been introduced by the Foreign Minister or by the French Ambassador. It is noteworthy that the Ministers have never broached the subject of Greece to me, though I have had several conversations with them on various matters during the last fortnight.

After M. Tissot had given me the above account of what had passed between himself and Assim Pasha, he told me that, when at Athens, he had at one time heard a good deal of negotiations between the Greeks and the Albanians, and that he should not be at all surprised if they were renewed under the auspices of M. Coumoundouros. He was confident that the Turks were very much alarmed at this possibility, and he expressed the idea which I have before suggested to your Lordship, the fear that such a possibility lies at the root of the reluctance of the Sultan and the Porte to drive the Albanians hard at Dulcigno.

With regard to Dulcigno, M. Tissot learnt nothing from the Foreign Minister beyond what I have already reported to your Lordship in previous despatches.

No. 210.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

E C.
(No. 586.)

Constantinople, November 19, 1880.

My Lord,

AN informal and friendly meeting of the Ambassadors was held a few days ago, with a view of exchanging information and impressions.

With regard to Dulcigno, the news received by all those of my colleagues who had Consuls at Scutari was to the effect that Dervish Pasha was making serious efforts for the cession, but encountered substantial difficulties; and notwithstanding the delay which has occurred, the great majority of the Ambassadors believe now that the Sultan is continuing to press for the surrender, and ordering all such measures to be taken, short of firing on the Albanians, which might bring about this result.

(I observe, on the other hand, that all the telegrams from Cettinjé, as well as the despatches from the naval authorities and Captain Sale and Lieutenant Caillard, continue to assume bad faith.)

We compared notes as to our instructions on the various other pending questions. It appeared that as regards the proposed convocation of a Financial Commission, the Russian and Italian Ambassadors had orders to support me, while the German, French, and Austrian Ambassadors had no instructions. Count Hatzfeldt and M. Tissot had

heard nothing from their Governments on the subject. Baron Calice had been in communication with Baron Haymerle as to the Commission, but had no instructions. He seemed to incline to the view that an inquiry might be held under the auspices of the Embassies without the assent of the Turks. It was believed by all who were present that the Turks would offer the greatest resistance to financial inquiry.

I inquired what instructions had been received by my colleagues with regard to the Organic Statute elaborated by the Eastern Roumelian Commission. The Russian, French, and Italian Ambassadors had received communications from their Governments directing them to associate themselves in any demand on the Porte for carrying the Statute into effect. But on this question, as on that of finance, the Austrian and German Ambassadors had received no instructions. Baron Calice dwelt strongly on the difficulty of compelling the Turkish Government to carry out the Statute *en bloc*, and called attention to the fact that it was only advice ("un avis") which was to be given by the Commission under the terms of the Treaty of Berlin. All concurred in the obstacles which were certain to be encountered in pressing the question on the Porte.

I myself entirely agreed that unless very great energy was shown, no prospect of progress could be held to exist either in this question or in that of finance, or indeed on any other, and that it would be of little avail entering on a new course of despatches and notes, unless the resolution existed to carry the points through. As to Armenia, the conversation was not encouraging as regards tone, or the amount of interest displayed.

The conversation also turned on the general attitude of the Porte. M. Tissot observed: "It must be admitted that we have lost all prestige. The foreign Powers are unable to carry anything. The Turks have never been so difficult to deal with before." On which Baron Calice made a significant remark to the following effect: "The worst of it is that this state of the relations between the Porte and the Great Powers generally affects the influence of the Powers individually, and prevents us from being able to settle matters or carry points in which we are individually or specially interested."

But I am bound to say that most of the Ambassadors took a broader view, and great apprehensions were expressed as to the possible result of the present tone of the Turks.

It is felt that the present state of things cannot be of long duration, and that the spirit which at present prevails among the Turks is likely, at some moment, to provoke them to an egregious act of folly which may precipitate a crisis. In the meantime, it must be clearly understood that the upshot of what the Turks consider the retreat of the Powers has been for the moment to destroy all their influence here, and to lead the Ottoman authorities, and especially the Sultan, to believe that there is scarcely a limit to the resistance which they may safely oppose to any demand.

One of my colleagues remarked that it would be necessary for any Power which might come into the position of having some special grievance or claim against the Porte for which redress was refused to go to the very verge of warlike action in exacting satisfaction, and such a course would be in the common interests of Europe.

I have thought it my duty to place these observations before your Lordship without reserve, the more so as while the Ambassadors would most widely differ, reflecting the different views of their Governments, as to the steps which it would be expedient and prudent to take, they are quite unanimous in their view as to the spirit and tone of the Turkish authorities at this moment, and as to the consequences likely to result therefrom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 211.

Captain Sale to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 24.)

E

Dear Lord Tenterden, "*Monarch*," *Theodo Bay, Cattaro, November* 18, 1880.

REPLYING to your note of the 11th instant, I have marked on the map which you sent the *status quo* line contrasting with that of the "Dulcigno arrangement" and with that of the Berlin Treaty.

To make it more clear I have added a tracing of the large-scale map on which the three lines are also shown in colour.

It is not possible to give the *status quo* line very definitively close to the northern shore of the lake because all that country at times lies several feet under water, and neither side can be said to be in possession.

But I think that the Turks would claim that the *status quo* line stretches up to the actual Plavnića marked as Skela Plavnića in the chart (tracing).

I add a written definition of the *status quo* line in case it should be of use.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Definition of the status quo *Line north of the Lake of Scutari.*

The line leaves the Lake of Scutari at the mouth of the small watercourse which runs into the lake from the Skela Plavnića. The line mounts this watercourse as far as Skela Plavnića.

From thence it directs itself on to the River Zem, striking that river at a point 500 metres below the bridge of Rijanicki Most, leaving the villages of Biscan Gorni Gostil, Gosič Matagus, and Radnija to Turkey, and the villages of Susunja Balaban, Stamslavač to Montenegro, and passing 1,000 metres to the east of the Church of San Nicola.

The bridge of Rijanicki Most, with its approaches on the northern bank to a distance of 500 metres, remain in the hands of the Turks.

The line then follows the northern bank of the River Zem to a point opposite the Rogami hillock, from whence it passes to the frontier-line of Kučka Krajna, skirting the boundaries of Omerbozo hamlet and those of the district of Dinosi, which remain with the Turks.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

November 16, 1880.

No. 212.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 23, 1880, 9·30 P.M.

TURKISH Commander-in-chief has sent from Dulcigno to inform Commander-in-chief at Antivari that he will send his Delegate to-morrow to Konia to conclude Convention for surrender.

Montenegrin Delegate leaves to-night, and will be at appointed place to-morrow afternoon.

Prince Nicholas has asked me to request Captain Sale to proceed there also.

Albanians reported to be dispersing to their homes.

(Sent to Mr. Goschen.)

No. 213.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 835.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1880.

THE following telegram has been received from Captain Sale:—

[See No. 201.]

Ask if Austrian Government will give permission desired on the understanding that it should not form a precedent.

No. 214.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24, 4 P.M.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, November* 24, 1880, 12·30 P.M.

DERVISH PASHA has taken possession of Dulcigno, after fight with the Albanians, in which it is reported that there were several killed and wounded on both sides.

Negotiations for Convention are to be resumed to-day with the same Delegates as before. The question of the distinction between cession and the "remise" appears to be again arising.

According to latest advices from Antivari, the Mazura [? position] was still occupied by the Albanians. I propose to be present as soon as Convention is agreed upon, but to remain here whilst the preliminary negotiations are going on.

No. 215.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November* 24, 1880, 1·35 P.M.

M. DE RADOWITZ has arrived at Athens; he is the bearer of no special message from the German Government to that of Greece, but has unofficially and personally pressed upon Greek Government the advisability of not acting rashly, and of having patience. M. Coumoundouros told him that matters were too far advanced to make it possible that Greece should interrupt the preparations she is making to be in a position to occupy the provinces.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 216.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 775.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1880, 6 P.M.

WHEN Dulcigno is surrendered, Her Majesty's Government leave it to your discretion to make suitable acknowledgments within due limits.

No. 217.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinje, November* 24, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegrams 132 and 133 of last night, Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs has assured me in the Prince's name that, in the course of the day after to-morrow, Montenegrin force of from 4,000 to 5,000 men will be collected on Sutorman, and ready to advance at a moment's notice.

Negotiations between Delegates are not likely to commence before to-morrow morning.

(Repeated to Admiral and Mr. Goschen.)

No. 218.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24, 11·15 P.M.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 24, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 910 of yesterday, Baron Jomini shows disinclination to assume responsibility of advising the Prince of Montenegro to occupy

Dulcigno, even if Dervish Pasha announces that he is master of position, unless the Powers give some security to Montenegro that she shall not suffer for doing so.

I urged the matter as strongly as I could, pointing out that what Her Majesty's Government asked was that Montenegro should be urged to have everything prepared, and I laid stress on evil effect which would be produced if Turks should declare themselves ready, and Montenegro then says she was not prepared to do what she had undertaken to do weeks ago.

The Baron will refer to Livadia, and give me an answer as soon as possible.

No. 219.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24, 11 P.M.)

(No. 362.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 24, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

FOREIGN Minister informs me that Dervish Pasha arrived at Dulcigno yesterday with eight battalions.

The Albanians, who occupied certain fortified positions, fired on troops; they were attacked and defeated by Dervish.

Few casualties on both sides.

Dervish occupies all the strategical points, including Mazura heights, with four battalions.

He assembled principal inhabitants and communicated to them the Sultan's will that Dulcigno should be ceded to Montenegro.

(Sent to Admiral and Green.)

No. 220.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 702. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1880.

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Thomson, which has been repeated to your Excellency, giving an account of a conversation which he had had with the Shah with reference to the Kurdish insurrection.

His Majesty states that Sheikh Obeidallah has now been defeated, and he urges that the Porte ought either to seize and punish the Sheikh or hand him over to the Persian authorities, or else allow the Persian troops to cross the frontier and co-operate with the Ottoman forces in capturing the ringleaders of the outbreak.

Your Excellency may give such advice to the Porte in this matter as you may consider is required by the situation, and you will keep Her Majesty's Government informed of the representations you may make to the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 221.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 703. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1880.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government leave it to your discretion, as soon as the surrender of Dulcigno is accomplished, to make some suitable acknowledgment to the Porte, within due limits, for its compliance with the wishes of the European Powers in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 222.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 600.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 24, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 910 of yesterday, instructing you to ask the Russian Government to advise the Prince of Montenegro to make the necessary preparations on his side in the event of Dervish Pasha shortly announcing his readiness to surrender Dulcigno, I have to acquaint you that Prince Lobanow, whom I had requested to telegraph to his Government in the same sense, has expressed to me his conviction that the wish to arrive at a settlement of this long-pending question is quite as great at Cettinjé as here and at Livadia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 223.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 764. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 24, 1880.*

CAPTAIN SALE has reported that communication with the port of Antivari is much hampered by the exclusion from it of men-of-war, under Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, and has inquired whether the Austro-Hungarian Government would object to the use of the dispatch-boats and gun-vessels, now employed with the fleet as avisos, for communication with Antivari, in order that information may be obtained as to what is happening in its neighbourhood.

I should wish your Excellency to inquire whether the required permission would be given if it were distinctly understood that no precedent would be created by the relaxation of the rule in this instance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 224.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 24, 1880, 11·50 P.M.*

I HAVE received a message from Mr. Summa, dated yesterday.

Although he mentions advance of Turkish Commander-in-chief, he has apparently no positive information of his progress, but states that his march will be most certainly opposed.

He adds that 700 volunteers left Scutari yesterday morning with the determination to attack Turkish troops, and that a report was already current that fighting had commenced.

Mr. Summa considers the task before the Pasha as not yet finished, but news from Antivari continues reassuring.

(Repeated to Admiral and Pera.)

No. 225.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 25, 1880, 7·30 A.M.*

MONTENEGRIN and Turkish Delegates having met last night, latter stated that feeling of exasperation at Scutari and elsewhere in Albania makes it absolutely necessary that Dulcigno should be surrendered as soon as possible to enable the Commander-in-chief to return to Scutari.

Commander-in-chief asked that the Montenegrin troops should be at the Mazura by noon to-morrow, and thence advance to Dulcigno and all the other positions now

held by the Ottoman troops, who will retire when the Montenegrins come within 500 paces of them.

Convention will be signed this morning; the principal stipulation being that the Montenegrins shall respect sealed doors of houses of those inhabitants who may have temporarily withdrawn.

I am assured by Prince that his troops will be without fail assembled and ready to act as above.

Not too much importance, I hope, need be attached to the alleged feeling in Scutari; it is to be expected that the Pasha should be anxious to get away from the ceded district.

(Sent to Admiral and Mr. Goschen.)

No. 226.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 778.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 25, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

MR. PLUNKETT'S telegram No. 230 of yesterday, repeated to you in my telegram No. 777 of to-day, appears to have crossed the telegrams respecting Dervish Pasha's advance.

No. 227.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25, 7 P.M.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 25, 1880, 6 P.M.*

BARON HAYMERLE has instructed the Austrian Minister at Cettinjé to urge the Prince to raise no difficulties about details of the transfer of Dulcigno, and he hopes the other foreign Agents will give similar advice.

He says also that what Sultan promised was the cession and not the "remise."

No. 228.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 199.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 25, 1880, 6·7 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 835 of yesterday.

The Austrian Government have no objection to gun-boats or despatch-vessels being employed in communicating with Antivari on the understanding that it shall not form a precedent; but they say they are not more entitled [group wrong] than the other Treaty Powers.

The necessary instructions will be sent to Austrian Captain of the Port.

No. 229.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25, 7·15 P.M.)

No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, November 25, 1880, 2 P.M.*

I AM leaving for Antivari to-day.

Turks demand that the cession be made to-morrow, because of the necessity for removing their troops at once in order to prevent outbreaks elsewhere in Albania.

The French Commissioner is the only one absent; he is understood to be in France.

This will hinder [? work of] Commission in case it should be desired to delineate ceded district at once.

Will you please send me orders as to my subsequent movements?

No. 230.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 25, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 25, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

MR. SUMMA telegraphs, under yesterday's date:—

"Turkish Commander-in-chief took Dulcigno on the 23rd, after five hours' fighting, with heavy losses on both sides.

"All quiet and calm now at Scutari."

(Repeated to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 231.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 26, 8 A.M.)

(No. 364.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 25, 1880, 11·30 P.M.

NO fresh news at the Porte about Dulcigno, except that I am furnished with copy of Proclamation by Dervish Pasha to Dulcigno inhabitants, the terms of which appear satisfactory.

No. 232.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 26, 1880.

CONVENTION was signed at midnight. Bedri Bey returning to Turkish head-quarters immediately. The Montenegrin troops will commence their advance at noon to-day as stipulated.

No. 233.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 842.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 26, 1880.

ASK the Austrian Government what they consider should be done as to the frontier north of the lake when the cession of Dulcigno is completed.

No. 234.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 26, 1880, 4·15 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 46 of yesterday.

You must be guided by circumstances with regard to your movements.

If the other Commissioners remain you had better do so also, otherwise you should go to Ragusa or any other convenient place you may prefer, and there await orders while Her Majesty's Government ascertain the views of the other Powers and of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 235.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 26, 1880, 5 P.M.

CAPTAIN SALE is at Antivari, and has requested instructions as to his movements, having regard to the possibility that it may be considered desirable to proceed at once

with the delimitation of the Dulcigno frontier. He says the French is the only Commissioner absent.

I have told him to remain if other Commissioners do; otherwise to await orders at some other convenient place.

*[Ascertain from the Government to which you are accredited their views as to the desirability of the immediate delimitation.]

†[What is your opinion as to this delimitation being proceeded with at once?]

No. 236.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Kunia, November* 26, 1880.

MONTENEGRIN troops are now advancing from Kunia, where I now am, to occupy Dulcigno. I have read the Convention; it appears suitable.

No. 237.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 26, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Kunia, November* 26, 1880, 1·2 P.M.

THE Montenegrins are now occupying the [? line] of the Mazura, according to Convention, and one battalion is going forward to Dulcigno.

No. 238.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 26, 11 P.M.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Kunia, November* 26, 1880, 4·7 P.M.

THE Montenegrins have taken over peaceably the whole of the Mazura boundaries, and have advanced to hill immediately over Dulcigno. The transfer of the whole district is to be carried out by to-morrow evening.

No. 239.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 26, 11·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Kunia, November* 26, 1880, 6·20 P.M.

PLEASE address telegrams to Kunia, Montenegro.

I expect to be in Dulcigno to-morrow morning, but the telegraph line there will not be ready for some days.

No. 240.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 26, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 231. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 26, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

THE Foreign Office profess to know nothing about the report that the Russian Consul-General at Tabreez has taken refuge within Russian territory; but one of the leading officials in the Asiatic Department told me to-day that, in his opinion, if the Kurds really have forced the Russian Consul-General to leave Tabreez, Russia, in self-defence, would have to order her troops to cross the frontier and chastise them.

I learn from a secret source that about a month ago Persian Chargé d'Affaires told a friend of his that Russia had consented to assist Persia in subduing the Kurd rebellion.

---

* Omitted to Mr. Goschen.

† To Mr. Goschen only.

No. 241.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Embassies at St. Petersburgh, Berlin, Vienna, and Rome.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 26, 1880, 11 P.M.*

ASK the Government to which you are accredited if they agree to direct their Admirals, when the cession of Dulcigno is accomplished, to take separate cruizes with prearranged places of call for orders in case of the necessity arising.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 242.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 766. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 26, 1880.*

CAPTAIN SALE went yesterday to Antivari, and has requested that he may be instructed as to his movements after the cession of Dulcigno is effected, having regard to the possibility that it may be considered desirable to proceed at once to the delimitation of the frontier of the ceded district. He states that all the Commissioners are present except the French, who is believed to be in France. He has been told to remain at Antivari if the other Commissioners remain there; if they leave, he is to go to some convenient place and there await instructions.

I should wish your Excellency to ascertain and report what is the view of the Austrian Government [†I should be glad to learn your Excellency's opinion] as to the expediency of marking out at once the new frontier between the sea and the Lake of Scutari.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 243.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 767. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 26, 1880.*

I HAVE requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to ascertain the view of the Austro-Hungarian Government as to the course that should be adopted, after the cession of Dulcigno is completed, respecting the unsettled portion of the new Montenegrin frontier to the north-east of the Lake of Scutari.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 244.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.‡

(No. 768. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 26, 1880.*

AS the announcement of the final cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro may shortly be expected, when the object of the naval demonstration will have been fulfilled, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that the Powers should lose no time in coming to an agreement as to the manner in which the separation of the fleets should be brought about.

The course which suggests itself to Her Majesty's Government, and has received the approval of that of France, is that, as soon as the Montenegrins are in possession of Dulcigno, the several Admirals should be directed to take separate cruizes, with prearranged places of call for orders, in case of the necessity arising for special instructions to be sent to them.

* Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 754), Sir A. Paget (No. 633), Lord Lyons (No. 1505), Mr. Plunkett (No. 602), and Mr. Goschen (No. 713).

† To Mr. Goschen.

‡ Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 755), Sir A. Paget (No. 633), and Mr. Plunkett (No. 605).

I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will communicate the above proposal to the Government to which you are accredited, and inform me, as soon as possible, of the views which they entertain on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 245.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 36. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 26, 1880.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 46 of yesterday's date requesting instructions as to your movements in the event of the cession of Dulcigno being carried out immediately.

In this matter you must be guided by circumstances.

If the other Commissioners remain in the vicinity of Dulcigno, you had better do so also. In the contrary case, you should proceed to Ragusa, or to any other place you may consider preferable, and which may be convenient, and there await the further instructions which will be sent to you after I have had the opportunity of consulting Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and have learnt the views of the other Powers with regard to the future proceedings of the Boundary Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 246.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 344. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 15, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 340 and 341 of the 9th and 10th instant, I have the honour to report that 4,000 of the Werndel rifles arrived yesterday at Cattaro with a large supply of cartridges, and that they are already being rapidly transported into the Principality. The rifles will be temporarily stored in one of the churches of the central district of Tchevo, and the ammunition in the magazines of Spuz and the Moracha Nahia.

I have ascertained that the first portion of the arms is to be distributed in the south-eastern districts, and that Voïvoda Plamenaz has now concluded a contract, with the consent of the Austrian Government, for the entire number of 20,000 rifles required by the Principality.

I have also learnt that the Austrian Government has taken a more direct share in this transaction than has been represented to me here by persons in its confidence, for it has agreed to accept from the Montenegrin Government, in part payment for the rifles, at the value of 100,000 fl., all the old bronze cannons found by the Montenegrins in the fortifications of Niksic, Spuz, Podgoritza, Antivari, &c., but on condition that they should be transported to the coast at Montenegrin expense.

I cannot hide from your Lordship that I have been left under the impression, through the peculiar manner in which the information concerning these rifles and ammunition has reached me, that the Austrian and Montenegrin Governments have some secret understanding on the subject, and that the complete knowledge possessed of it by the Russian Government is not yet known to that of Austria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 247.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Prevesa, November 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch No. 55 of to-day's date, and of its inclosure, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relating to the military preparations that are going on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 247.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Prevesa, November 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis reports that four battalions of Albanian zaptiehs, to be sent to the frontier, are in course of formation at Janina, and that 500 more Albanians are to be sent in the pursuit of brigands; 250 of the latter had already arrived there, and part of them had to leave for Zagori on the 11th instant.

With respect to the capture of the Kaïmakam and other members of the Medjliss of Castoria, Mr. Kypriotis writes as follows:—

"A few days ago a band of brigands, under the leadership of the famous Daveli, had an encounter with the Imperial troops, whom he routed, outside Samarine, and took possession of the town. He had with him the members of the Council of Castoria whom he had captured in the outskirts of that town, and now threatens to slaughter them if he is pursued by Government."

I have also the honour to inclose translation of his despatch of the 9th instant, relating to the calling out of the second ban of Redifs and the pressure exercised upon the inhabitants in order to procure transport animals.

I avail myself of this opportunity to acquaint your Excellency that two battalions of infantry have been dispatched to Arta from Janina, and that the steamer "Taïf" called here yesterday and landed 30,000 sacks of flour, 3,000 sacks of wheat, 150,000 okes of biscuit, 600 tents, 4,000 water-cans, 6,000 Marti-Henry rifles, 200,000 cartridges, and a few recruits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 247.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Janina, November 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the second ban of Redifs has been called out, and according to rumour the third ban, as well as the Mustafize, is also to be called out. On the calling out of the Redifs, those of Paramithia seemed unwilling to leave their hearths, in consequence of which Government was forced to send thither the mixed battalions of Redifs of Janina and Paramithia so as to have the vacancies in it filled up. But in order to carry out this plan 100 transport animals were required, instead of which 370 were requisitioned, which was done by making use of violence, beating the unfortunate owners, men and women, who protested against such violence at a time, too, when their animals are of the utmost use to them. But this is not all, for in the district of Dimachio many of the owners, together with their animals, were locked up during the night and left without food. On the following day, however, when the number of animals required was secured, the owners of the rest had to pay in order to have their animals restored to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 248.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 26, 1880, 6 P.M.*

THE Mazura was occupied, in perfect order, by the Montenegrins shortly before 1 o'clock, and the march was continued towards Dulcigno, where it is expected the main body of Montenegrins will have arrived before sunset. A Turkish staff officer accompanies M. Bojo Petrovich's head-quarters, and M. Matanovic, the Montenegrin Delegate, will pass the night at Dervish Pasha's head-quarters on the south-eastern outskirts of Dulcigno.

No. 249.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 8 A.M.)

(No. 232.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 26, 1880, midnight.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 230 of the 24th instant, Baron Jomini writes to me, in a private note, that M. Giers' answer from Livadia states that the Emperor approves the observations made by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to Mr. Goschen, that it would be unjust to leave to Montenegro the responsibility of the consequences which may result from occupation of Dulcigno. Russia, therefore, hopes that in calling upon the Prince to occupy that territory, the Powers will continue the necessary control and protection for insuring the loyal and pacific execution of their decisions.

The Baron adds that, as it appears from public telegrams since received that the Prince of Montenegro has accepted the invitation of Dervish Pasha to send Commissary to arrange the conditions of "remise," it is not from His Highness that difficulties would seem likely to arise.

No. 250.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 8 A.M.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Antivari, November 27, 1880, 1·50 A.M.*

THE town of Dulcigno has been just taken over by the Montenegrins quite peaceably.

No. 251.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 8 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 26, 1880, 11·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that Dervish Pasha has been ordered to await Montenegrin troops till Sunday for the transfer of Dulcigno. In the event of Montenegrin troops not responding to the invitation of the Turkish Commander-in-chief by the above-mentioned time, he has instructions to extend time by twenty hours, notifying this extension to the Montenegrin Government, and, at the same time, declaring that if during that time Montenegrins do not occupy Dulcigno he will retire from place, leaving all the responsibility to the Montenegrin Government.

German Ambassador informs me that the Porte has received news that Montenegro asks for delay of a month.

No. 252.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 9 A.M.)

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 27, 1880, 1 A.M.*

BARON JOMINI writes in the private note referred to in my previous telegram that the Imperial Cabinet adheres to combination which Her Majesty's Government have proposed, that after the "remise" of Dulcigno the divided squadrons should each go to a neighbouring anchoring-ground in order to prove to the Porte that the European concert is still maintained in spite of the cessation of the special naval demonstration in the Dulcigno affair.

The necessary orders have been sent to the Russian naval Commander at Cattaro.

This is not what I gathered from your Lordship's telegram No. 894 of the 9th instant to be the plan which Her Majesty's Government approve. Is it right?

It was from the French Ambassador, in the first instance, that Baron Jomini heard, the day before yesterday, of this proposal, and when the Baron asked me about it on the same day, I told him that I understood Her Majesty's Government to agree with French Government that final separation of the combined squadron would be unadvisable, and that they thought that Admirals should take separate cruizes, and call for orders at places prearranged.

No. 253.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 1 P.M.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 27, 1880, 12·10 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 644 of yesterday.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs considers it desirable that the delineation of Dulcigno frontier should be proceeded with immediately.

No. 254.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 1·50 P.M.)

(No. 126.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 27, 1880, 11·50 A.M.*

WITHOUT my having in any way alluded to the subject, French Minister for Foreign Affairs said to me this morning that the French Government wished the fleets to separate immediately after the occupation of Dulcigno by the Montenegrins, but, at the same time, considered that it would be proper to fix beforehand a rendezvous.

No. 255.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 8·15 P.M.)

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 27, 1880, 5 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 791 of yesterday's date.

German Commissioner will be instructed to take part in the delineation of the Dulcigno frontier as soon as the Powers are agreed upon immediate delineation.

No. 256.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 8·15 P.M.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 27, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 793 of yesterday's date.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs says that Germany will await decision of other Powers, but doubts whether all will agree to Admirals taking separate cruizes, with prearranged places of call for orders in case of necessity arising.

No. 257.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 9 P.M.)

(No. 235.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 27, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

I HAVE asked Baron Jomini whether Russia will agree to the Admiral taking separate cruize with the prearranged call, as directed in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday. I have called his Excellency's attention to the difference between this proposal and the answer he gave me yesterday, as reported in my telegram of yesterday.

He explained that he had replied to what he had understood the French Ambassador to say. His Excellency will refer to Livadia and give answer as soon as possible. All that Russia desires is that the fleets should not separate altogether, but should remain somewhere within call in case of necessity arising. He fears, however, that Germany and Austria will look with disfavour on any further naval movement.

No. 258.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 10 P.M.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 27, 1880, 2·45 P.M.*

M. DE MOÜY has arrived here. He is charged with no special message to the Greek Government, but is instructed to assure them of the warm friendship and sympathy of France, but at the same time to declare that her policy is strictly pacific. French Government does not doubt that the award of Europe as regards a new frontier for Greece will be eventually carried out. If Greece should decide, however, to act precipitately in the matter, she must look for no countenance from France, or assistance in case of reverses.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 259.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 11 P.M.)

(No. 367.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 27, 1880, 7·15 P.M.*

PORTE had no news this afternoon of the occupation of the town of Dulcigno, but were informed by telegram dated 3 this morning, from their Agent at Cettinjé, that Montenegrin troops had occupied certain heights. Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that he had had no telegram from Dervish Pasha of later date than Thursday, and that it was in consequence of his telegram that the Porte feared the reluctance of the Montenegrins to march, and had addressed a note to the Ambassador.

German Ambassador tells me that it was by a message from the Palace that he was informed last night that the Montenegrins had asked for a month's delay, which message, coming at the same time with the official note, had greatly disturbed him.

No. 260.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27, 6 P.M.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 27, 1880, 9 A.M.*

DULCIGNO was occupied in the most perfect quiet and order by the Montenegrins yesterday at about sunset; the surrender of the whole district will be completed in the course of to-day.

No. 261.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 27, 5 P.M.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 27, 1880, 11 A.M.

I HAVE been requested, through Prince Nicholas, to convey to Her Majesty's Government the most heartfelt and sincere thanks of himself and people for the leading part taken by it in obtaining for their country the satisfactory settlement of a question which has subjected Montenegro to so many trials.

(Repeated to Mr. Goschen.)

No. 262.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 27, 8 P.M.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 27, 1880, 11·30 A.M.

IN compliance with terms of my telegraphic despatch No. 117 of the 17th October to Mr. Goschen, repeated by my telegram No. 120 to your Lordship, Prince Nicholas authorizes me to inform Her Majesty's Government that he has ordered the immediate and unconditional release of all the Mussulmans in question.

No. 263.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 27, 8 P.M.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 27, 1880, 3 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS has addressed a telegram to the Sultan thanking His Imperial Majesty in courteous terms for the surrender of Dulcigno, and expressing the conviction of friendly relations for the future.

(Repeated to Mr. Goschen.)

No. 264.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 27, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

FROM information received, it appears that no Albanians other than its own inhabitants now remain in the district of Dulcigno. At Scutari the bazaar has been reopened, and the whole population has returned to its industrious occupations. Dervish Pasha has published an amnesty for the late resistance to his orders.

No. 265.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 27, 1880, 8 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN Commander-in-chief reports that he this morning made his official entry into Dulcigno and was received with marked respect by the inhabitants, who were all following their daily occupations. Only ten [?] families of the poorest class have left the place, and even these are expected to return. All express contentment with the settlement of affairs.

No. 266.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28, 4 P.M.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 28, 1880, 10 A.M.

FOLLOWING to Mr. Goschen, under No. 170 of the 28th November:—

"Montenegrin Commander-in-chief reports that yesterday all points of the new line have been occupied by him, except St. George, where a Turkish outpost was found, and announced that it could not retire without orders from the Pasha. A messenger was sent to Scutari on the subject, and the Montenegrin Delegate will also go there on a complimentary visit. If the Pasha makes any difficulty about St. George, and telegraphic communication is interrupted with Scutari, the Porte could send orders to his Excellency through its Envoy here."

No. 267.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28, 10 P.M.)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November* 28, 1880, 6 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN Government has addressed a note to the Representatives of the Powers and of the Porte urging that Boundary Commission should be immediately reassembled to fix the boundary marks of the new frontier between sea and Lake of Scutari, as the climate of the district permits the work to be carried out even in winter. The English, Italian, and Russian Commissioners are already on the spot, and those of Austria and Germany in the immediate neighbourhood.

No. 268.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November* 27, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's telegrams Nos. 835 and 836 of yesterday.

Similar instructions will be sent to the Italian Commissioner as those sent to Captain Sale, and Italian Government will be ready to proceed at once to the delineation of the Montenegrin frontier on hearing that the other Cabinets agree to do so. They are also ready to send instructions to their Admiral, as suggested by you, as soon as they are informed by Her Majesty's Government that they have been adopted by the other Powers.

No. 269.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 28, 1880, 5·20 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 842 of the 26th instant, Baron Haymerle thinks that April arrangement should be set aside and the new frontier approved by the Powers in a formal instrument before steps are taken to make it out. He thinks that the delineation should not proceed on either side until sufficient time has passed, say two or three weeks, to allow the excitement which exists at the present time in North Albania to subside.

No. 270.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 201.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 28, 1880, 5·20 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th instant, unnumbered, respecting movements of combined fleet, Baron Haymerle considers that the fact of the cession of

Dulcigno brings the naval demonstration to an end, and does not desire to take any step tending to prolong it.

No. 271.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28, 10 P.M.)

(No. 368.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 28, 1880, 6·26 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 779 of the 26th instant.

I think it undadvisable to press for immediate delimitation of frontier, an opinion strongly shared by some of my colleagues.

There is no Convention yet modifying the Treaty of Berlin to that effect. Also, it might be prudent to let the Montenegrins consolidate their position before raising any question which might irritate the Albanians.

On the other hand, if a [?] Convention is urged at once, the question of the *status quo* line immediately arises. Still, if the other Powers desire immediate delimitation, and the Montenegrins are agreed, there can of course be no serious objection.

No. 272.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 29.)

E
(No. 170.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November* 13, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 167 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the reply which I have received from M. Zancoff to the note which I addressed to his Excellency on the 25th ultimo, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 163 of the 30th ultimo, with regard to the non-fulfilment by the Bulgarian Government of certain provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Zancoff states that he at once communicated my note to the Minister of War, and he incloses a translation in French of the reply which he has received from General Ehrnrooth, which, he says, will be a sufficient answer to the fears entertained by your Lordship, which are based upon exaggerated reports. His Excellency adds that the fortresses have now been placed under the control of the civil authorities, and that the work of demolition is being proceeded with gradually, the materials being used for works of public utility. With regard to the fortress of Widdin, his Excellency observes that it would be impossible to demolish the wall which protects the town against the inundations to which it would otherwise be liable.

General Ehrnrooth, in his note to M. Zancoff, admits that the fortresses have not been literally razed, but he contends that they are in such a state of dilapidation that it may fairly be considered that the provisions of the Treaty have been carried out, and that the fortresses have lost all their importance from a military point of view, and that it would be easier to erect new fortifications than to restore the present ones.

General Ehrnrooth is of opinion that if the Great Powers persist in attributing any importance to the fortresses in their actual condition, it is indispensable that they should point out the particular fortifications they wish to see demolished; as otherwise, the Bulgarian Government would be exposed to further complaints with regard to any ruins which had no interest except for archæologists.

With regard to the armed vessel on the Danube, the General states that there are in reality some guns "d'un calibre et d'un poids dérisoires," such as are used on board merchant ships for making signals. In order, however, that the presence of those guns on board the "Golubtchick" may no longer constitute an infraction of international Treaties, he had ordered them to be removed.

With regard to the importation of arms and ammunition from Russia, General Ehrnrooth states that since the month of June no arms have been imported from abroad, and that the orders for small arms and ammunition necessary for the national militia will not be made till next year.

With regard to the number of Russian non-commissioned officers, the General expresses his readiness to furnish the exact numbers with full details in the same way as has been done with regard to the number of Russian officers.

In conclusion, General Ehrnrooth requests M. Zancoff to inform the diplomatic Agents at Sophia that 230 horses have been ordered in Russia in order that no fresh misunderstanding may arise, and that these horses may not be taken for a brigade of cavalry armed with artillery.

The whole tone of General Ehrnrooth's note is so sarcastic and flippant that I thought it my duty to speak to M. Zancoff on the subject. His Excellency said that as he had sent my note to the General, he considered that he ought to communicate to me his reply, which was merely a communication that had passed between the two Bulgarian Ministers.

I observed that his Excellency had sent me General Ehrnrooth's note as an answer to the representation which I had made, by your Lordship's instructions, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, to which it appeared to me your Lordship would expect a serious answer. I said that I would not fail to transmit his Excellency's note and its inclosures to your Lordship, and would leave them to your Lordship's appreciation, but I did not conceal from his Excellency that I thought they would produce a very bad effect.

M. Zancoff has addressed a Circular to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin in Sophia inclosing a copy of his note to me, together with its inclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 272.

M. Zancoff to Mr. Lascelles.

Sophia, le 10 *Novembre*, 1880.

M. l'Agent,

VOUS avez bien voulu par votre office du 25 Octobre, 1880, me faire savoir qu'ensuite des informations parvenues au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, son Excellence Lord Granville, Premier Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères en attirant votre attention sur l'arrivée en Bulgarie des sous-officiers et d'armes venant de la Russie, et sur le mouvement progressif, pour l'union de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale, vous chargeait de nous faire des remontrances sur ce que le Gouvernement Princier ne procédait pas à la démolition des anciennes forteresses Turques du Danube, conformément aux clauses du Traité de Berlin.

Vous vouliez bien aussi, M. l'Agent, me signaler la présence sur le Danube d'un bateau à vapeur armé appartenant au Gouvernement Princier et cela contrairement à l'Article 11 du Traité de Berlin. Enfin, Lord Granville vous priait de nous avertir du danger que courrait le Gouvernement Princier par l'emploi d'un grand nombre de sous-officiers Russes et par l'importation continuelle d'armes de la Russie, ce qui faisait naître, suivant son Excellence, de graves soupçons sur les intentions du Gouvernement Bulgare qui, en prenant de telles mesures, pourrait faire croire qu'elles auraient pour but de changer l'état de choses que a été établi dans la péninsule des Balkans par le Traité de Berlin.

J'ai transmis immédiatement à mon collègue, le Ministre de la Guerre, l'office que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser, M. l'Agent, et j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer une traduction de la lettre que M. le Général d'Ehrnrooth m'a adressée le $\frac{22 \text{ Octobre}}{3 \text{ Novembre}}$, et que vous trouverez ci-après. Cette lettre répond suffisamment aux craintes peu fondées qu'a pu avoir son Excellence Lord Granville, par suite d'informations exagérées, mais, j'ajouterai de mon côté que depuis trois mois les anciennes forteresses ont cessé de faire partie du domaine de l'Administration Militaire pour entrer dans celui de l'Administration Civile, et que la démolition se fera graduellement, les matériaux étant pris pour les besoins des communes, qui ont reçu l'autorisation d'en disposer pour les constructions ou réparations d'écoles, églises, mosquées, synagogues, ou tout autre bâtiment rentrant dans un intérêt général.

Enfin, quant à la forteresse de Widdin, il ne sera pas possible de démolir un mur qui forme quai et préserve la ville contre la crue des eaux, sans lequel elle verrait de fréquentes inondations.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANCOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 272.

Général d'Ehrnrooth to M. Zancoff.

(Traduction.)

A LA suite de votre lettre du 17 Octobre, relative aux événements mentionnés dans la note du $\frac{1}{13}$ du même mois, de son Excellence l'Agent Diplomatique de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les faits qui suivent :—

Pour décider si les prescriptions de l'Article LII du Traité de Berlin, relativement à la démolition des forteresses du Danube, sont accomplies, il faut avant tout pouvoir s'entendre sur l'interprétation qu'il est préférable de donner à l'Article susmentionné. Si l'expression "les forteresses et fortifications qui se trouvent sur le parcours du fleuve . . . . . seront rasées" signifie que toute l'étendue qui jusqu'à aujourd'hui servait d'emplacement pour les travaux de fortification doivent complètement disparaître et se transformer en terre rase, dans ce cas ses prescriptions de l'Article LII n'ont certainement pas été accomplies, non-seulement aux environs de Roustchouk, Schoumla, et Widdin, mais sur tous les autres points qui ont servi à des travaux stratégiques.

Si d'un autre côté l'expression susmentionnée a la signification qui se rapproche le plus des motifs exposés dans le même Article LII: "Afin d'accroître les garanties assurées à la liberté de la navigation sur le Danube, &c.;" dans ce cas, d'après moi, il ne saurait exister de doute sur l'accomplissement des prescriptions du Traité sur ce sujet, vu que les anciennes forteresses se trouvent dans un tel état de délabrement qu'elles ne sauraient avoir aucune importance militaire. Les constructions en pierre de l'intérieur de ces forteresses sont de jour en jour démolies par les habitants et les autorités administratives des villes, et ont perdu depuis longtemps toute signification au point de vue militaire.

Sans mentionner ici les armements et autres munitions militaires emmagasinés jadis dans les forteresses du Danube, toute l'importance de ces forteresses consistait en des travaux de défense qui, par ordre du Commandant-Général de l'armée d'occupation Russe, avaient été réduites à l'état de ruines; cela ressort des papiers et documents du Corps d'Ingénieurs Russes, contenant des détails sur la démolition des forts (25 Juin, 1879).

Pour mettre aujourd'hui en état de défense une des anciennes forteresses Turques il faudrait entreprendre de plus grands travaux que pour élever de nouvelles fortifications sur un des nombreux points qui dominent le cours du Danube, et présentant en conséquence un plus grand avantage que Widdin, Roustchouk, Silistrie, &c. Je ne citerai ici que la ville de Toutrakan, située en face de la ville Roumaine Oltenitza, et où la largeur du Danube n'a pas moins de 800 mètres.

Si pour des considérations qui échappent à mon discernement les Grandes Puissances persistent à vouloir attribuer aux anciennes forteresses Turques, malgré l'état de ruines et délabrement dans lequel elles se trouvent, une importance militaire quelconque, il serait au moins indispensable que ces Puissances désignassent avec précision les fortifications qui doivent être démolies, autrement nous pourrions nous exposer à de nouvelles réclamations dans l'avenir au sujet des premières ruines venues ne conservant d'intérêt que pour les archéologues.

Relativement au bateau armé, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance qu'il s'y trouve réellement quelques pièces d'un calibre et d'un poids dérisoires (moins de 400 kilog.). De pareilles pièces se trouvent même dans les bâtiments de commerce qui s'en servent pour donner des signaux, &c. Pour que la présence de ces pièces sur le bateau "Golonbtchik" ne puisse pas constituer à l'avenir une infraction aux Traités internationaux, j'ai donné l'ordre au Commandant de la flotille de les faire enlever.

Les affirmations sur l'arrivée continuelle en Bulgarie d'armes provenant de la Russie manquent complètement de vraisemblance. Depuis le mois de Juin aucune importation n'a été faite de l'étranger. La commande d'armes de petit calibre et de cartouches pour suppléer au manque d'armements dans la millice nationale a été ajournée à l'année prochaine.

Quant aux bruits qui circulent sur le nombre des sous-officiers Russes au service Bulgare, je suis prêt à fournir s'il le faut des chiffres et des données exactes, à l'exemple de la communication qui a été faite pour les officiers Russes au service de la Bulgarie à l'Ambassade Russe de Constantinople. Je crois devoir conclure en portant à votre connaissance, M. le Ministre, qu'il a été fait en Russie une commande de 230 chevaux, dont le besoin se fait sentir depuis longtemps. Vous jugerez peut-être utile de communiquer ce fait à MM. les Agents Diplomatiques, pour éviter un nouveau malentendu

pareil à celui qui s'est produit, au sujet du transport d'armes, et de l'arrivée de sous-officiers Russes à Varna, et empêcher qu'on prenne ce convoi de chevaux pour une brigade de cavalerie munie aussi de pièces d'artillerie.

Le Ministre de la Guerre,
(Signé) EHRNROOTH.

No. 273.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E
(No. 171.)

Sophia, November 13, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Italian Acting Agent and Consul-General has made a representation to M. Zancoff respecting the non-execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the demolition of the fortresses. M. Squitti has also called M. Zancoff's attention to the warlike preparations said to be making in Bulgaria and to the large number of Russian non-commissioned officers serving in the Bulgarian army.

M. Zancoff denied that any military preparations were being made, and referred M. Squitti to the note which he had addressed to me inclosing General Ehrnrooth's note on the subject.

M. Squitti has informed me that he was instructed to make this communication to M. Zancoff in consequence of a representation which had been made to the Italian Government by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 274.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E
(No. 109. Confidential.)

Belgrade, November 17, 1880.

My Lord,

GENERAL TCHERNAIEFF, who has been residing here for a considerable time back, has caused a monument to be raised at Alexinatz in honour of the Russian volunteers under his command who fell during the Servo-Turkish campaign of 1876. This monument is to be solemnly inaugurated on the 20th instant, in the presence of the General, the Russian Minister, and his Secretary, the Metropolitan of Servia, with a number of his clergy, and one of the Cabinet Ministers.

The ceremony is, in fact, to be the pretext for a great Russian demonstration, which is considered all the more necessary since M. Ristitch has been compelled to resign office in deference to Austria-Hungary. The acceptance by the present Administration of the demands addressed to them by the latter Power has aroused the fear that its influence will become predominant in this Principality, and every effort is therefore being made on the part of Russia to counteract it. The Russian Minister has had long and repeated interviews with M. Ristitch and M. Milojkovitch, the late very able and energetic Minister of the Interior, and instead of proceeding direct to Alexinatz, he is now engaged on a regular electioneering tour in the provinces, where he is said to speak of the Ministry in anything but favourable terms, and to hint that the course they are pursuing must tend to jeopardize the independence of the country and place it entirely at the mercy of its bitterest enemy, Austria-Hungary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 275.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E
(No. 747.)

Vienna, November 21, 1880.

My Lord,

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to Baron Calice to address the Porte officially upon the delay respecting the final settlement of the Servian, Bulgarian, and Roumanian frontiers.

The Ambassador is directed to remind the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that months ago the Porte agreed to the arrangement come to about Arab-Tabia, but that, ever since, the Powers had been kept waiting for the notification of the official approval of the Sultan.

It was impossible that Roumania and Bulgaria should be left indefinitely without their frontiers being fixed, and Baron Calice was therefore to intimate to the Porte that if the notification was not made within a reasonable time, the Austro-Hungarian Government were determined, without waiting longer, to inform the Roumanian Government of their own acceptance of the line that had been agreed upon, and to invite them to recognize it.

I have observed to Baron Haymerle that as I knew Her Majesty's Government to be sensible of the necessity of having this question settled, I had no doubt of their being ready to concert with him upon the mode of proceeding to be adopted in the event of its being impossible to get the Porte to join in the general act by which it ought properly to be closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 276.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 29.)

E
(No. 749.) *Vienna, November* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. LASCELLES has forwarded to your Lordship, in his despatch No. 170 of the 13th instant, a letter from the Bulgarian Minister of War upon the subject of the demolition of the fortresses.

A copy of this letter had also been sent to Baron Haymerle, whose view of the tone of the communication appears much the same as Mr. Lascelles'.

All representations about the non-execution of the Treaty as regards the demolition had hitherto been answered by assertions of the inability of the Principality to incur the cost that it would entail, but General Ehrnrooth now shifts the ground and declares that, to all practical purpose, the fortresses may be considered as demolished, though no money whatever has been expended upon the work.

Baron Haymerle accepts neither the first nor the second explanation, and maintains that the Treaty has not been fulfilled; that the fortresses are much in the state in which they had been left, and that it had been ascertained that their demolition would not cost above 20,000*l.*, which cannot be considered beyond the means of the Principality.

With respect to the "Golubtchick," his Excellency says that, whatever may be the truth about the armament of the vessel, there can at least be no doubt that she continues to fly a war flag, which the Bulgarian Government have no right to allow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 277.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 29.)

E
(No. 750. Confidential.) *Vienna, November* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a Report received by Baron Haymerle upon the present condition and prospects of the Greek army, which his Excellency has given me confidentially for communication to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 277.

Memorandum concerning the Military Strength of Greece in October 1880.

THE Greek army is wanting in every established foundation necessary for its mobilization; the point in question is, therefore, less about the completion of the military strength than about the formation of a basis for it; and accordingly, the Greeks have thought much more about the production of the active forces than about placing them in fighting trim.

The army which, on M. Tricoupi taking office, consisted of about 19,000 men, was, in the course of last spring, reduced nominally to 12,000, and, in reality, to from 9,000 to 10,000 men, which it was pretended would form the nucleus for composing an active army of 60,000 men.

The following basis is taken as the grounds for this:—

	Men.
(*a*.) The proper strength in the summer of 1880	12,000
(*b*.) The proper strength of the contingent of recruits for 1880	9,000
(*c*.) The proper strength of the contingents of the nine years 1870-79, taking the average at 6,000 men	54,000
(*d*.) The reserves from 1870-80	15,000
Total	90,000

therefore, 33 per cent. more than they really need.

It is clear that the above figures, which comprehend about 5½ per cent. of the population, estimated in round numbers at 1,600,000, and more than 11½ per cent. of the male population, have only an imaginary value as regards recruiting, as is proved by the results which have been hitherto obtained.

The contingents (*b*) and (*c*) were to be called to arms directly, while the contingent (*d*) had only to be got ready later. Therefore, including (*a*), 75,000 men ought to be ready.

Instead of this, the calculations, which naturally have only a momentary worth, make out the following result, based on a census of the people taken personally in the subdivisions:—

	Men.
8 battalions of Jägers	8,000
17 battalions of infantry (each 650)	11,050
2 battalions of engineers (each 830)	1,660
2 cavalry regiments (each 520)	1,040
14 batteries (each 150)	2,100
Total	27,450

and together with the preparations for the army, which have already been commenced, about 29,000 men.

The order for mobilizing commands the formation of—

Infantry and Jäger battalions	30
Squadrons of cavalry	8
Heavy (9th) batteries	2
Light (8th) batteries	4
Mountain (7th) batteries	8
Engineer battalions	4

The proper strength of the troops, as well as that of the standing and mobilized army, amounts to in all 41,613 men, and, counting the gendarmes, who are about 6,000 strong, 47,613 men.

About 15,000 men are still wanting to attain this number, if one subtracts the gendarmes who are already placed under arms.

If the unavoidable loss of men, which renders at least once an additional increase necessary, is considered, and, counting this only at 10 per cent. of the force, at 4,000 men, it also is evident that nothing has been provided, even theoretically, for the higher commands and staff, as well as for the other Departments of the army Administration, such as hospitals and ambulances, field surgeries, field bakers, posts and telegraphs, administration of pay, and of military jurisdiction, &c., and one estimates the men needed for these places at about 1,500 men.

When it is finally considered that the officering and manning of the Royal Navy require about 2,000 men, it is evident that in reality about 53,000 men, that is 3¼ per cent. of the whole population, is necessary to mobilize the afore-mentioned troops to the

strength of 32 field battalions, 8 squadrons, and 14 batteries. But this force expresses the maximum of men which Greece can produce and keep for some time under arms.

The horses and beasts of burden are in a much more unfavourable state; of the former, the Greeks possess, inclusive of the 1,400 just bought in Hungary, and of the 200 remounts got from Algiers, 2,200; and, of the latter, only about 500, while the proper force requisite amounts to 3,367 horses and 9,095 beasts of burden.

The Greeks have only tried to ameliorate the equipment of the army, which has hitherto been composed of very scanty materials, during the last few weeks, by an extensive purchase of materials, especially in Austria-Hungary; they are now ordering over 70,000 Gras rifles, *i.e.*, carabines, 8,000 Mylonais, 40,000 Chassepôts; and, further, 30,000 Gras rifles are ordered in Steyer, and for every Gras rifle about 800 cartridges are stored up.

The above-mentioned 14 batteries consist of about 84 cannon, for which they have stored up in readiness about 700 rifled shot, and the stores will be further augmented by another order of 1,500 shot.

Thanks to these extensive purchases, the equipment of the army is not only good, but even quite complete.

The improvement of the troops, who, in consequence of the way of their being raised, consist mostly of recruits, is at present at a very low degree. This small effective progress is partly to be put down to the indolence of the officers, and partly to the want of the explanation of the directions, which the regulations for improvement leave to the judgment and apprehension of the non-commissioned officers.

The need of officers fit for war is everywhere felt. The Greek army has, it is true, 869 officers, but have difficulty in filling the 791 posts with intelligent and physically capable people. Many of them have for a long time been strangers to active service, or are in a position of life which is very injurious to active service.

Twenty-six officers officiate as deputies in bodies established by law.

The inferiority of the Greek army to the Turkish can only be compensated for by the skilful handling of every advantage which the Greeks gets from the necessarily separated arrangement of their antagonists, who are generally, on account of various difficulties, in separated positions.

They ought not to attack both provinces simultaneously, but only one, Thessaly, as it is the easiest to conquer, since that is their only chance of making up for the general disadvantage of their position by relative superiority.

In spite of this it seems to be determined that the attack shall be made on both provinces at once, Corfu being chosen as the point of departure for Epirus, and Lamia for Thessaly.

Other considerations naturally present themselves as to the active power on either side. Turkey is about to increase her local forces considerably before the spring, whereas Greece can hardly raise more men upon her side.

It would take about eight days to concentrate the force now scattered all over Greece.

The Lamian column will encounter close to the frontier the already fortified Turka Pass, and then the provisional camp of Domoko, where sixteen battalions have been placed as a sort of depôt for the defence of the frontier-line of hills.

The Corfu column will have to fight against still more serious obstacles. Their first stage ("étape") is said to be Janina, the next Metzovo. The fact seems to be forgotten that any massing of troops at Corfu must arouse the vigilance of the Albanians, and make it impossible to land at either of the two only places practicable, viz., Santi Guaranta and the embouchure of the Kalamos, without encountering opposition.

In its further course the Greek force will have to pass on its way to Janina, about 90 miles distant, innumerable passes, where a handful of determined men could stop the course of a whole army.

No. 278.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 752. Confidential.)

Vienna, November 25, 1880.

My Lord,

SOME discussion is going on between the Turkish Ambassador and the Austro-Hungarian Government respecting the removal of the military stores found in Bosnia and the Herzegovina when those provinces were occupied by the Imperial troops, and which, under the Convention between the two countries, are to be restored to Turkey.

The equivocal proceedings of the Turkish Government respecting the Montenegrin frontier and towards the Albanians made Baron Haymerle take precautions to prevent these arms being landed either in Albania or at Salonica, and it was arranged that they should be conveyed to Constantinople in an Austrian Lloyd's steamer; but, instead of this, the Porte has sent a Turkish transport to bring them away, which Baron Haymerle refuses to permit.

Edhem Pasha urges that a transport fitted to carry arms and powder is better adapted to the service to be performed, and has offered that an Austrian Commissioner should be taken on board, who could guarantee the cargo being taken to Constantinople, but he has been told that until Dulcigno is given up the arms will be retained.

As the proposal of the Ambassador appears in itself reasonable enough, I imagine that the consent of the Austrian Government must be refused only as a means of pressure upon the Porte, and when Edhem Pasha spoke to me on the subject, I told him that his Government must not expect any other Government to show much consideration or good-will towards them as long as they deferred carrying out their own engagements.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 279.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E

(No. 753. Confidential.)

Vienna, November 25, 1880.

My Lord,

THE inclosed extract of a Report from the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Janina of a demonstration against annexation to Greece has been given to me, confidentially, by Baron Haymerle for communication to your Lordship.

M. de Rémy suspects it to have been got up for the purpose of being reported by the correspondents of the English newspapers, who happened to be present, as evidence of the patriotism of the Albanians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 279.

M. de Rémy-Berzencovich to Baron Haymerle.

Janina, le 5 Novembre, 1880.

(Extrait.)

DEPUIS quelques jours le bruit s'était répandu dans la ville qu'un mouvement des troupes Grecques aurait eu lieu vers les frontières dans les alentours d'Anino. A la suite de cette nouvelle, dont il ne m'a pas été possible de constater l'exactitude, la partie notable de la population Musulmane Albanaise s'était réunie dans une des mosquées de la ville, et après avoir répété et confirmé l'intention déjà connue, de repousser toute agression Grecque avec les armes, la foule sortant de cette assemblée s'était portée dans la cour de la caserne militaire, où le Vali de la province et le Gouverneur Militaire se trouvaient occupés à faire distribuer des armes aux Rédifs de la première catégorie rappelés sous les drapeaux.

Se trouvant en présence des fonctionnaires mentionnés, les Albanais déclarèrent vouloir se constituer comme arrière-ban, et demandèrent également des armes. Le Vali, tout en remerciant cet empressement, leur fit comprendre que le Gouvernement disposait des moyens suffisants pour résister à toute tentative de la part des Grecs; que leur intervention était superflue pour le moment, &c.; après cette harangue la foule se dispersait.

Il est à noter que quelques Anglais, journalistes et autres, séjournent actuellement à Janina, et qu'ils assistaient à ce "meeting" des Albanais, ainsi qu'à la demande des armes. Je ne doute point de la sincérité du patriotisme des Albanais, mais cette réunion, la démonstration qui s'ensuivait, la présence des hauts fonctionnaires à un moment, et dans un endroit voulu, l'ordre régnant—tout me porte à croire que cette petite représentation, sérieuse au fond, avait été mise en scène d'accord avec les autorités du pays pour fournir des preuves de patriotisme aux Anglais.

Pour ce qui est de l'appel des Rédifs, mentionné dans mon Rapport du 29 Octobre,

la rentrée de ces combatants sous les drapeaux se fait assez régulièrement, mais non sans opposition du parti Albanais, qui, par le classement de ses meilleures forces dans l'armée Turque, se voit affaibli dans ses propres moyens d'action.

Dans une entrevue que j'avais dernièrement avec un haut fonctionnaire du pays, celui-ci m'assurait qu'on pouvait augmenter l'effectif de l'armée Turque en Epire et en Thessalie de 10,000 hommes par l'appel de tous les Rédifs; que ce contingent, uni aux Nizams, suffisait pour combattre la Grèce sans le concours des Albanais volontaires; que le nombre des bataillons ne serait pas augmenté, mais que l'effectif en serait doublé et triplé au besoin.

No. 280.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 758. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 25, 1880.*

AS the Turkish Government appear at last to be really desirous that the cession of Dulcigno should be carried out as speedily as possible, Baron Haymerle is very anxious that advantage should be taken of this favourable disposition, and has instructed the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Cettinjé to urge the Prince to raise no difficulties about the details of the arrangement to be made with Dervish Pasha.

He trusts that the other foreign Agents will be instructed to give similar advice.

With respect to Captain Sale's remark that the question of "cession" or "remise" was not unlikely again to reappear, his Excellency observed that the cession was all that the Sultan has promised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 281.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E
(No. 760. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 25, 1880.*

AS instructed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have asked Baron Haymerle whether he had any objection to gun-boats and despatch-vessels attached to the allied fleet being employed in communicating with Antivari for the purpose of obtaining information.

His Excellency replied that, as far as the Austro-Hungarian Government were concerned, they had no sort of objection to these vessels being sent to Antivari, on the understanding that it should not form a precedent, but the question was one in which they were not more entitled than any of the other Powers to authorize a departure from the provisions of the Treaty.

I said that I presumed that none of the other Governments made any objection, and at my request Baron Haymerle said that the necessary instructions should be sent to the Austro-Hungarian Captain of the Port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 282.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E
(No. 548. Extender.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 27, 1880.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegraphic query of last night, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that the German Commissioner, who is now at Ragusa, will

be quite ready to take part in the immediate delineation of the Dulcigno frontier when agreed upon by the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 283.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E
(No. 550. Extender.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 27, 1880.*

THE Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated your Lordship's telegram of last night respecting the movements of the fleet after the surrender of Dulcigno, told me that the German Government would wait to know the views of the other Powers in regard to your Lordship's proposal before pronouncing themselves, but that he doubted a unanimous decision being arrived at in favour of prearranged places of call for orders in case of necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 284.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, November 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Novembre, 1880.*

JE viens d'adresser aux Représentants des six Puissances à Constantinople la note suivante:—

"Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de l'Empire Ottoman, a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie, et de M. le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie, que son Excellence Dervich Pacha, Commissaire Extraordinaire et Commandant-en-chef de Scutari, est entré à Dulcigno avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes Mardi dernier, 23 Novembre, et qu'il s'est empressé d'informer le Gouvernement du Monténégro qu'il est prêt à remettre Dulcigno entre les mains des autorités Monténégrines.

"Par l'occupation de cette ville, le Commandant-en-chef est, en effet, à l'heure qu'il est, en mesure d'en effectuer immédiatement la remise. En conséquence, Dervich Pacha a reçu l'ordre d'attendre le corps d'occupation du Monténégro jusqu'à Dimanche, 28 Novembre, à 10 heures du matin à la frontière, pour faire la remise dont il s'agit.

"Dans le cas où les troupes Monténégrines ne se rendraient pas à l'invitation faite par le Commandant-en-chef Ottoman jusqu'au délai susdit, celui-ci a pour instruction de prolonger ce délai de vingt heures, soit jusqu'à Lundi prochain, 29 Novembre, en notifiant cette prolongation au Gouvernement Princier, et en lui déclarant en même temps que si, dans ce cas pareillement, les Monténégrins ne viennent pas occuper Dulcigno, il se retirera, passé ce dernier délai, de la ville précitée, avec ses troupes, laissant toute la responsabilité au Gouvernement du Monténégro.

"Le Soussigné saisit l'occasion, &c."

Vous voudrez bien communiquer sans retard le document qui précède à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères qui, dans ses sentiments de haute équité, ne manquera certainement pas d'apprécier tout l'empressement que le Gouvernement Impérial a mis à exécuter les engagements pris par lui relativement à la remise de Dulcigno.

No. 285.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, November 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 28 Novembre*, 1880.

JE m'empresse de vous annoncer que la cession de Dulcigno vient de s'effectuer à la suite d'un engagement assez sérieux entre nos soldats et les Albanais. Les autorités et troupes Monténégrines se sont avancées en toute sécurité vers Dulcigno et en ont pris possession dans la soirée d'avant-hier, Vendredi.

No. 286.

Prince Lobanow to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

E

Mon cher Lord Granville, *Ce 29 Novembre*, 1880.

JE m'empresse de vous communiquer le télégramme ci-joint que je reçois de Livadia.

Peut-être avez-vous déjà reçu la même information directement de Mr. Plunkett.

Votre, &c.

(Signé) LOBANOW.

Inclosure in No. 286.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le $\frac{16}{28}$ Novembre*, 1880.

LE Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre ayant eu l'ordre d'interpeller le Cabinet Impérial sur l'opportunité de terminer immédiatement la délimitation Monténégrine, nous avons répondu qu'il nous paraît urgent d'achever la délimitation d'après le tracé Anglo-Autrichien déjà convenu entre les Puissances, et qu'il serait désirable que celles-ci fassent à cet égard une démarche collective auprès de la Porte.

No. 287.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29, 8 A.M.)

(No. 175.) *Cettinjé, November 28, 1880, 9 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Préfet of Kolasin telegraphs that yesterday 2,000 Mussulmans, under the leadership of Feizo Calich, from Ottoman territory of Lower Kolaschin, made a raid in the district of Sinjavina, killing two shepherds and carrying off 1,600 sheep and 100 [?] horses and oxen.

Prince hopes Porte will cause immediate restitution, and not force Montenegrins to reprisals.

I have urged great calmness and moderation.

(Sent to Mr. Goschen.)

No. 288.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 49.) *Dulcigno, November 28, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH the exception of a point on the north-east limit, the whole of the district of Dulcigno has been handed over to the Montenegrins, who are in possession of territory up to new frontier between the lake and the sea.

No. 289.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 50.) *Dulcigno, November 28, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

AS the other Commissioners here are now leaving, I start to-morrow for Ragusa, and expect to arrive Wednesday; I expect to communicate with Admiral on way.

No. 290.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 847.) *Foreign Office, November 29, 1880, 5 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

EXPRESS to Baron Haymerle a strong hope that Austria will not separate herself from the other Powers as to the form proposed for the separation of the fleet.

No. 291.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 137.) *Foreign Office, November 29, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

CONGRATULATE Prince of Montenegro on peaceable occupation of Dulcigno.

Her Majesty's Government highly appreciate the zeal and ability which you have shown throughout these long and difficult negotiations.

No. 292.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 45.) *Foreign Office, November 29, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram reporting peaceable surrender of Dulcigno received yesterday.

Have much pleasure in conveying to you entire approval of Her Majesty's Government, and thanks for able exertions in contributing to this result.

No. 293.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29, 6 P.M.)

(No. 176.) *Cettinjé, November 29, 1880, 11 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

ALTHOUGH slight difference of opinion about Point St. George has not yet been settled, still the Dulcigno district may now be considered to have been satisfactorily surrendered to Montenegro. If necessary, St. George matter can be left to Boundary Commission to decide.

No. 294.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29, 4 P.M.)

(No. 177.) *Cettinjé, November 29, 1880, 11·30 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING to Mr. Goschen, under No. 174:—

"Prince Nicholas informs me that out of a population of 1,500 souls in the district of Velika, near Gusinjé, 900 are utterly destitute through the constant raids of Mussulmans.

"His Highness is prepared to accept in the said district the appointment of a Mussulman functionary by the Porte to administer the locality in conjunction with the Montenegrin officer until the final demarcation of the frontier by the Boundary Com-

mission, provided that peace and quiet can be thus secured for the unfortunate inhabitants."

No. 295.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29, 9 P.M.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, November 29, 1880, 3 P.M.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Mr. Summa, dated yesterday:—

"Dervish Pasha returned here to-day. The League is quiet, natives having resumed their legitimate affairs and reopened the bazaar. The Albanians have evidently resigned themselves to the loss of [? Dulcigno], and I do not think that there will be any further hostilities against Montenegro."

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 296.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29, 11 P.M.)

(No. 286.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 29, 1880, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram 922 of the 26th instant, Baron Jomini writes that he hears from Livadia that Russian Government consider it urgent to trace the Turco-Montenegrin frontier according to the Anglo-Austrian line, as accepted by the Powers, and think that collective steps in this sense at Constantinople would be desirable.

Your Lordship will notice that the above reply goes further than my inquiry.

From what Baron Jomini said to me unofficially on Saturday, when I made the inquiry in your Lordship's name, the Russian Government consider that urgency is required not so much for the Dulcigno frontier-line as for the delimitation of the line beyond the lake.

No. 297.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received November 29, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 287.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 29, 1880, 5·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 285 of the 26th instant, Baron Jomini writes that the answer from Livadia is that Russia adheres to the text of the English proposition respecting squadrons.

No. 298.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 769. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 29, 1880.*

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram No. 201 of yesterday that Baron Haymerle does not desire to take any step tending to prolong the naval demonstration, which his Excellency considers to be terminated by the cession of Dulcigno; and I gather from this that he hesitates to accept the suggestion that separated cruizes should be taken by the vessels composing the fleet, places of call for orders in case of necessity being prearranged. I have requested you, by telegraph, to express the strong hope to his Excellency that Austria-Hungary will not separate her action on this question from that of the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 299.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

E
(No. 770.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 29, 1880.*

M. HENGELMÜLLER having called upon me to-day, I told him that France, Russia, and Italy had agreed to the proposition of Her Majesty's Government that, as soon as the Dulcigno question was settled, the united fleet should disperse, but that certain places of call should be arranged at which the respective Commanders should be able to receive orders.

I informed him that the German Government had stated that they must await the decision of the other Powers before themselves deciding what answer they would give.

In these circumstances I expressed a strong hope that the Austro-Hungarian Government would not separate from the other Powers as to the procedure proposed with regard to the fleet.

M. Hengelmüller said that, as far as he was aware, the aim of the naval demonstration was held at Vienna to be fulfilled by the settlement of the Dulcigno question, and that consequently he did not think that his Government would desire to keep the united fleet together *en permanence*. At the same time, though they did not wish to perpetuate the union of the fleets, they did not wish to do anything to hurry unnecessarily their separation. He asked to be informed of the motives of Her Majesty's Government for proposing that places of call should be prearranged before the division of the fleet.

I stated to him that I had no proposal to make as to the future employment of the fleet; that, if a necessity occurred for re-employing it, the circumstances must be a matter for inter-communication among the Powers; but that I thought that the formal and final separation of the ships at this moment would have a bad political effect, and that I should regret if Austria were to separate herself, and to lead Germany to separate herself from the other Powers as to the mode of procedure to which the majority of the Governments had agreed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 300.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 772. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 29, 1880.*

AT an interview which I had to-day with M. Hengelmüller, I referred to the question of the delimitation of the new frontier between Montenegro and Albania resulting from the cession of Dulcigno. I said that Her Majesty's Government would have been prepared, if the other Powers wished it, to assent to the delimitation being made at once; but that as I had learnt from your Excellency that Baron Haymerle considered that it would be advisable to allow sufficient time for the excitement in Albania to subside, and as I have also heard from Mr. Goschen that some of his colleagues considered it unadvisable to press the Porte at once on the subject, I was disposed to think that the best course would be to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, after communication with the Representatives at Scutari, to deliberate as to the best mode by which the boundary could be settled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 301.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 363.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 10, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 329 and 351 of the 28th August and the 7th October, I have the honour to inclose a précis, in English, of an article which has appeared in the "Narodni Glas," complaining of the want of energy shown by the

Macedonian Society, and stating that the enthusiasm with which this Society was founded has completely disappeared.

The article maintains, nevertheless, that however small the subscriptions given may be, they will be a proof that the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia are mindful of the misfortunes of their Macedonian brothers, and that the mutual, national, and political programme is constantly in their thoughts.

It concludes by stating that every Bulgarian is ready to offer his mite, and that inactivity on the part of the Committee and those charged with the enrolment of members in the Society would be culpable.

The information I have received on the subject does not bear out the writer's assertion, that every Bulgarian is ready to contribute to this fund. On the contrary, it would appear that the Committee have had much difficulty in collecting the little money which has been subscribed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 301.

Extract from the "Naradni Glas" of November 5, 1880.

(Translation.)

WE have not inserted in our columns the many questions which have lately been put to us respecting the Macedonian Society, believing that proof would soon be given of the good work it was doing. Unfortunately, our hopes have been disappointed.

Up till the present moment we have been unable to make out what the Society is about. If we are to believe the reports which reach us, this Society has done absolutely nothing.

Without wishing to throw the blame on any one particular, we regret to have to state that a few weeks have sufficed to completely damp the ardour with which this Society was founded. It must be admitted that our feelings have grown somewhat insensible since the day of our deliverance, and that the greater part of those who should set an example to the people are so occupied with their own affairs that they rarely think of anything beyond their own personal interests. Ought we not indeed to be pitied when so noble an aim as that of the Macedonian Society cannot rouse us. However large our subscriptions may be, they will not, we know, suffice to provide for all the wants of our Macedonian brothers; but will not our subscriptions serve as a proof that we are mindful of their misfortunes, and that our mutual, national, and political programme is constantly in our thoughts.

Woe to us if we grow insensible to our obligations to our Macedonian brothers! Woe to us if we wait to be convinced before helping them! If we grudge the small sacrifices demanded of us now, how shall we ever be resolved to make the great sacrifices which will be required to carry out our national task. We are sure that every Bulgarian is ready to offer his mite. Any inactivity, therefore, on the part of the Committee or those charged with the enrolment of members in the Society would be a sin.

No. 302.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 364.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, November 15, 1880.

THE Governor-General informed me to-day that the Director of Finance had last week repaid to the Sophia Bank, with interest, the 40,000*l.* borrowed by the East Roumelian Government last June, as reported in my despatch No. 294 of the 18th June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 303.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

E
(No. 365.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, November 16, 1880.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordships in my despatch No. 314 of the 31st July that Captain Yacharoff, the officer who commanded the detachment of militia during the events in Kirdjali last Spring, had been granted two months' leave of absence to go to Russia.

General Strecker now informs me that, owing to Captain Yacharoff having failed to send in his resignation in accordance with a private understanding come to between them at the time, he has caused the name of that officer to be erased from the roll of the provincial militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 304.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 366.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, November 18, 1880.

M. FARCY, the representative of M. Emile Girardin and M. Genty, of Paris, visited Philippopoli last week with a view, I am told, of coming to an understanding with the provincial authorities with regard to a railway which it is proposed to construct from Rahova on the Danube via Sophia through Eastern Roumelia to Constantinople.

M. Farcy, it appears, stated during his visit that both Prince Alexander and M. Zankoff preferred his scheme to that recently presented by MM. Ronat and Serres, as reported in my despatch No. 331 of the 3rd September, and that he now proposed to visit Vienna, Paris, and London in order, if possible, to obtain the consent of the Austrian, French, and English Governments to a relaxation of the engagements alleged to devolve on Bulgaria under Article X of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am informed that M. Farcy's scheme is favourably viewed by the leading Bulgarians here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 305.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 368.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, November 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith in French translation, a copy of the Report which, in accordance with the provision in Article 107 of the Organic Statute, the late Permanent Committee presented to the Assembly on the conclusion of their term of office.

The Report commences by giving a list of the twenty-nine "Règlements d'Administrations Publiques" approved by the Committee; as also of sixteen other laws which, owing to a press of work, the Committee were unable to examine.

It then goes on to state that the Permanent Committee have only once taken advantage of the right granted to them by Article 107 of the Organic Statute, by voting to the Director of Finance a supplementary credit of 1,402,284 piastres, adding a list, on pp. 6-10, of thirty orders they have approved for provisional loans, under the heading of "unforeseen expenditure." The Report then refers to the state of the militia staff, expressing the hope that the Government will not fail to take measures for its improvement. It also proposes (p. 12) that the vacancies in the militia should be filled up by the native officers, who have completed their studies at the Military School of Sophia; pointing out, moreover, the necessity of placing the school battalion under the charge of capable instructors.

Regret is also expressed, in p. 12, that the contracts for the services of foreign officers and officials still remain unsigned. Allusion is then made to the incompetency

of certain candidates proposed by the Director of Justice for posts in the Criminal and Civil Tribunals, several of whom the Committee were obliged to reject.

Mention is afterwards made of the reduction last winter in the forces under arms, and the questions of an agricultural bank, and of the concession for the construction of the Craova, Hainkeui and Yeni-Zaghra Railway, are briefly alluded to.

I would likewise beg to beg to draw your Lordship's attention to that part of the Report (p. 17) which refers to the engagement of thirty-nine additional Russian non-commissioned officers (as previously reported in my despatch No. 325 of the 27th August), as also to the remarks made on p. 19 relative to the proposed appointment of Custom officers by the Sublime Porte.

In conclusion, the Report refers (p. 20) to the credit of 40,000*l.* voted last year in aid of the necessitous agriculturists (p. 22), to a discreditable incident in which the Committee considers the Director of Justice is unbecomingly implicated, and (p. 24) to the petition presented to the Committee by the Bulgarian officers of the militia

I have the honour to annex a list of the members of the new Permanent Committee elected by the Assembly on the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 305.

Report on the Proceedings of the Permanent Committee.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président et MM. les Députés,

EN exécution des obligations que nous impose le Statut Organique, nous avons l'honneur de vous présenter le Rapport sur les actes q · nous avons eu à nous occuper depuis le jour que nous eûmes l'honneur d'être élus, jusqu'à la fin de notre mandat.

La tâche la plus importante du Comité Permanent consiste sans contredire dans le concours qu'il a donné à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général pour l'élaboration de Règlements d'Administrations publiques destinés à remplacer pendant le temps des sessions les lois non existantes encore. Le Comité Permanent sachant que la plupart de ses Règlements seront présentés à la session courante pour être revêtus de la forme de loi, s'est efforcé de faciliter la tâche de l'Assemblée Provinciale, au sujet de leur examen, en leur consacrant tous ses soins pour les rendre plus complets et plus conformes aux besoins du pays.

Les Règlements que le Comité Permanent a examiné et approuvé sont au nombre de vingt-neuf, savoir:

1. Règlements concernant la réception des étrangers au service de la Roumélie Orientale.
2. Règlement prévu dans l'Article 163 du Statut Organique pour la formation des Conseils Municipaux dans les chefs-lieux des départements.
3. Règlement pour le droit de patente pour débit de tabac.
4. Règlement par lequel est permis aux communautés Arméniennes et Israélites de former une section d'élection spéciale et d'élire chaqu'une un Conseiller Municipal.
5. Règlement pour la formation du Conseil Municipal de Tatar-Bazardjik.
6. Règlement par lequel est formé dans la Direction de la Justice un bureau central des titres de propriété ayant un chef de bureau spécial.
7. Règlement pour la formation du service des Commissaires Judiciaires.
8. Règlement pour les Inspecteurs au sujet de l'instruction primaire en Roumélie Orientale.
9. Règlement sur la pêche dans la Roumélie Orientale.
10. Règlement sur l'organisation sanitaire dans la Roumélie Orientale.
11. Règlement sur la conservation des biens ruraux.
12. Règlement concernant les bourses dans les établissements secondaires de Philoppopoli et de Slivno.
13. Règlement concernant les bourses pour des études spéciales dans les établissements supérieurs de l'Europe.
14. Règlement pour l'exemption du service militaire des professeurs et élèves.
15. Règlement sur la formation de la police rurale.
16. Règlement pour la mesure de capacité dans la province.
17. Règlement pour la distribution des sommes prévues dans l'Article 3, Chapitre I^er^, No. 10, des Annexes du Statut Organique.

18. Règlement pour la formation du Conseil Municipal de Philippopoli.
19. Règlement sur les Inspecteurs Cantonaux.
20. Règlement sur la police municipale.
21. Règlement sur la chasse.
22. Règlement sur les membres suppléants dans les chefs-lieux de départements.
23. Règlements sur les frais de route et les frais journaliers des employés de l'Administration Civile.
24. Règlement au sujet des candidats pour les bourses destinées à l'accomplissement des études militaires.
25. Règlement sur le port d'armes.
26. Règlement pour la vente des drogues pharmaceutiques.
27. Règlement pour les droits de port du petit et grand cabotage dans le port de Bourgas.
28. Règlement sur les droits et les devoirs des Commissaires judiciaires.
29. Règlement sur la discipline militaire.

Tous ces Règlements d'Administrations publiques ont actuellement force de loi.

Un seul d'entre eux, savoir: le Règlement d'Administration publique sur les "frais de route et les frais journaliers des employés" a donné lieu à une divergence d'opinions entre le Gouverneur-Général et le Comité Permanent par suite des modifications introduites par ce dernier dans le projet qui lui a été présenté.

Le besoin qui se fait sentir pour une loi à ce sujet nous donne lieu de croire que ces divergences d'opinions seront effacés lorsque le Règlement sera changé en loi. Le Comité Permanent a rejeté deux des Règlements que le Gouverneur-Général lui a présenté: celui pour les services dépendants de la Direction des Travaux Publics et celui pour le fonctionnement des Commissions Départementales.

Le Comité s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de refuser son consentement au premier, vu qu'il n'était pas conforme à l'Article 247 du Statut Organique, qui demande son élaboration; et le second, parce qu'il ne consistait qu'en Articles pris du Statut Organique et de ses Annexes.

Seize autres projets de Règlements n'ont pas pu être examinés par le Comité Permanent, soit qu'ils lui ont été présentés tard, soit pour des raisons indépendantes de sa volonté.

Ces Règlements sont:

1. Règlement pour l'Administration du monopole du sel.
2. Règlement pour les services dans la Direction des Travaux Publics, &c., qui demandent des études spéciales.
3. Règlement pour la formation d'une "ferme-école" rurale.
4. Règlement pour isoler les maladies des animaux en cas d'épizootie.
5. Règlement pour l'ouverture de trois nouveaux Chapitres dans le Budget.
6. Règlement pour la délimitation des circonscriptions militaires dans la province.
7. Règlement pour l'affectation de la somme de 399,600 piastres à l'entretien des prisons de la province.
8. Règlement pour l'instruction obligatoire, et la fréquentation régulière des élèves dans les écoles primaires.
9. Règlement pour les cercles des écoles et des surveillants.
10. Règlement pour la conservation et l'agrandissement des forêts.
11. Règlement pour la préservation des forêts de l'incendie.
12. Règlement pour l'exploitation de la pierre à chaux.
13. Règlement pour l'entretien des chaussées de la Roumélie Orientale.
14. Règlement pour les droits à percevoir des médecins étrangers qui veulent pratiquer librement leur science dans la province.
15. Règlement sur les devoirs et les congés des employés.
16. Règlement pour l'amélioration du clergé pauvre.

Pendant tout le temps de son activité le Comité Permanent n'a été obligé qu'une seule fois d'exercer le droit que lui donne l'Article 107 du Statut Organique en allouant à la Direction des Finances, conformément aux prescriptions de l'Article 90, Annex No. 9, du Statut, un crédit supplémentaire de 1,402,284 piastres et 30 paras. Au contraire, le Comité Permanent a donné son consentement conformément à l'Article 89 de la même Annexe à trente Règlements pour le prélèvement de sommes sur les "frais imprévus" du Budget de l'année dernière et de celui de l'année courante.

Voici ces Règlements:—

1. Règlement par lequel est affectée à la Direction de l'Agriculture, du Commerce,

et des Travaux Publics la somme des 26,607 piastres pour l'achat de la maison des "Nourry Bey."

2. Règlement par lequel la Direction des Finances est autorisée de prendre sur les fonds (des frais imprévus), Chapitre 143 du Budget, la somme de P. T. 400 pour satisfaire à quelques réclamations basées sur des documents légaux, et qui ont été présentés par les propriétaires des biens "vacoufs."

3. Règlement autorisant la Direction des Finances de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 143 du Budget, la somme de 5,270 piastres pour l'achat de "Manuels Chirurgiques" de "Exmark," lesquels manuels seront distribués aux élèves qui ont suivis le cours de "Feltcher," du Directeur "Ougrounoff," de Philippopoli.

4. Règlement accordant la somme de 77,000 piastres pour subvention des écoles du département de Tatar-Bazardjik.

5. Règlement accordant la somme de 9,000 piastres pour subvention des écoles du département de Philippopoli.

6. Règlement accordant la somme de 120,000 piastres pour subvention des écoles du département d'Eski-Zaghra.

7. Règlement accordant la somme de 37,500 piastres pour subvention et réparation des écoles du département du Bourgas.

8. Règlement autorisant le Directeur des Travaux Publics de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 143 du Budget, la somme de 165,975 piastres pour frais de postes et télépraphes.

9. Règlement autorisant le Directeur de la Justice de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 143 du Budget, la somme de 40,000 piastres nécessaires pour frais de route et autres des juristes étrangers.

10. Règlement autorisant la Direction de la Justice de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 143 du Budget, la somme de 838 piastres pour frais de route des paysans de Kara-Alan appelés à Haskeui pour affaires administratives.

11. Règlement autorisant le Directeur des Travaux Publics de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 143 du Budget, la somme de 14,000 piastres pour solde du transport de la poste d'après contrat passé entre la Direction des Travaux Publics, &c., et l'entrepreneur "Deneff et Cie."

12. Règlement autorisant le Directeur de la Justice de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 184 du Budget, la somme de 800 piastres, due à "Nikoloff," ancien copiste auprès du Juge d'Instruction de Philippopoli, pour son traitement du mois de Janvier.

13. Règlement autorisant le Directeur de l'Intérieur de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 183 du Budget, la somme de 30,000 piastres pour frais de la Commission des délimitations des frontières entre la province et le vilayet d'Andrinople.

14. Règlement pour la répartition de la somme destinée pour subvention des écoles pendant l'année financière 1879-80.

15. Règlement pour la répartition des sommes destinées pour subvention des écoles pendant l'année financière 1880-81.

16. Règlement accordant des subventions aux écoles des départements de Haskeui, Eski-Zaghra, Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, et Slivno.

17. Règlement accordant la somme de 33,000 piastres pour subvention des écoles des départements de Haskeui, Eski-Zaghra, Philippopoli, et Tatar-Bazardjik.

18. Règlement autorisant le Directeur de l'Intérieur de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 183 du Budget 1880-81, la somme de £ T. 2,000 qui sera affectée pour l'indemnisation de ceux des habitants du Canton de Kirdjali qui ont éprouvés des pertes dans les événements du mois de Février.

19. Règlement autorisant le Directeur de l'Intérieur de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 183 du Budget, la somme de 30,000 piastres pour frais de route de la Commission envoyée dans le Canton d'Achielo-Mesemvria pour faire une enquête sur les troubles qui ont eu lieu dernièrement dans cette localité.

20. Règlement autorisant le Directeur de l'Intérieur de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 183 du Budget, la somme de 1,500 piastres pour la fabrication de chaînes pour les malfaiteurs condamnés par le Tribunal de Slivno (Section Criminelle).

21. Règlement autorisant le Directeur des Finances de prélever sur les fonds des "frais imprévus," Chapitre 183 du Budget 1880-81, la somme de 2,240 piastres pour soldé des gendarmes qui ont surveillé la fabrique de draps de Slivno à partir du 19 Juillet, 1879, jusqu'au 19 Février, 1880.

22. Règlement pour la distribution de subventions pour constructions et entretien d'écoles.

23. Règlement pour la distribution des subventions aux écoles.

24. Règlement permettant le prélèvement sur le Chapitre 183 du Budget, "frais imprévus," la somme de £ T. 120, pour les traitements d'un employé dans la Chancellerie du Gouverneur-Général à partir du 1er Mars, 1880, jusqu'au 1er Mars, 1881.

25. Règlement autorisant le Gouverneur-Général de prélever mensuellement une somme de £ T. 50 pour couvrir les frais d'impression et de publication des lois de la province, de Règlements d'Administrations publiques, et autres dispositions Gouvernementales provenant de l'autorité centrale.

26. Règlement autorisant le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique de donner 10,000 piastres pour l'école de la communauté Bulgaro-Catholique à Philippopoli, et 2,000 piastres comme subvention pour l'école de la commune Turque sise à Turkméuié, département de Philippopoli.

Cette somme sera prélevée du Chapitre 109 du Budget 1879-80.

27. Règlement par lequel on désigne la somme de 1,870,000 piastres qui sera prélevée de la somme de 2,500,000 piastres, votée par l'Assemblée Provinciale et portée au Chapitre 164 du Budget pour l'exercice financier courant affectée à la construction des casernes et dépôts.

28. Règlement pour crédit supplémentaire au Chapitre 70 du Budget 1880-81.

29. Règlement pour la suppression du droit de taxe sur les moutons et la dîme de la présente année, pour vingt pauvres familles émigrées de Macédoine et actuellement domiciliées aux environs du village Bania, Canton d'Ichtiman.

30. Règlement par lequel on supprime quelque décisions prises par les Conseils-Généraux des départements, dans leurs sessions extraordinaires.

De tous ces Règlements, le plus important est sans doute celui par lequel on affecte £ T. 4,071 à ceux qui ont soufferts pendant les derniers événements de Kirdjaly.

La somme que le Gouvernement demandait préalablement montait à £ T. 5,000.

Bien que le Comité Permanent connaissait la nécessité de subvenir aux besoins de ces malheureux, et ayant en vue les faibles ressources du Budget, voulait néanmoins diminuer ce montant. Mais, après les instructions réitérées du Gouvernement, et ayant pris en considération la nécessité de pacifier définitivement le canton troublé jusqu'alors par les agitateurs de la tranquillité, il crut de son devoir de donner son opinion à la proposition du Gouverneur-Général.

Le Comité Permanent espère que, comme pour ce Règlement-ci ainsi que pour tous les autres de ce genre, l'Assemblée Provinciale trouvera qu'ils étaient pleinement justifiés par les causes qui les ont provoqués.

Les affaires qui ont été communiquées de l'Assemblée Provinciale au Comité Permanent ont attirées son attention. Il aura l'honneur de vous donner lecture d'un Rapport particulier concernant les Projets de Loi qui n'ont pas pu être élaborés dans la dernière Session, et sur lesquels il s'est chargé de donner son opinion. Il s'occupe également de la question pour la réorganisation de l'Etat-Major de la milice, dans les limites de l'obligation qui lui a été imposée.

Tout ce qui a été fait jusqu'à présent dans ce sens ne répond pas encore au besoin qui a provoqué le désir exprimé par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Par les assurances que le Comité Permanent a reçues à ce sujet, il aime à croire qu'elles se réaliseront bientôt d'autres améliorations plus importantes encore, au sujet de la réorganisation de l'Etat-Major, et que le Gouvernement ne manquera pas de donner assurance à ce sujet à l'Assemblée Provinciale pendant cette Session.

Ici le Comité Permanent a eu l'honneur d'observer qu'assez souvent il s'occupait de l'affaire concernant l'organisation militaire en général. Ainsi, outre le désir que souvent il a exprimé pour l'amélioration de quelques anormalités il attira . . . . . l'attention du Gouvernement pour le complétement du régiment d'officiers, en appelant quelques-uns des officiers indigènes, qui ont terminés cette année-ci leurs études à l'Ecole Militaire de Sophia.

Presque en même temps il observa au Gouvernement la nécessité d'appeler des officiers capables pour occuper les places vacantes des Commandants dans quelques sections du "Bataillon-Ecole."

Il aime à croire que ces observations dans ce cas ont été prises en considération par le Gouverneur-Général.

L'Assemblée Provinciale a eu raison d'entendre du Comité Permanent qu'il a pu se prononcer sur toutes les affaires qui lui ont été communiquées par la loi, et dont la Constitution ne peut être ajournée.

Une de ces affaires qui occupe la première place est de passer des contrats entre les employés étrangers en service civil ou militaire dans la Roumélie Orientale. Bien qu'il a beaucoup insisté, les contrats des officiers étrangers ne lui ont pas été présentés à son approbation. Il n'a examiné et approuvé que les contrats des soixante-seize sous-officiers.

Le non-contractement des officiers étrangers à influé sur l'organisation de la milice, et le Comité Permanent exprimant le regret de ce que la possibilité de régler cette question ne lui a pas été donnée, insiste fortement sur la nécessité à ce que ce contrat soit présenté le plus tôt possible à l'approbation du nouveau Comité Permanent.

Le Comité Permanent exprime aussi les mêmes regrets et le même desir pour les contrats passés avec les employés étrangers, au service civil, et dont le Règlement a été élaboré encore au . . . M . . . A.

Quant à l'organisation des Tribunaux, tous les états nécessaires d'un personnel ont été présentés à différentes époques au Comité Permanent, et sauf trois Tribunaux, savoir : les Tribunaux Civil et Criminel de Slivno, et le Tribunal Civil de Bourgas, il a exercé sur tous les autres états le droit que lui donne l'Article 29, Annexe No. 11, du Statut Organique.

Il se voit obligé, quoique à regret, de communiquer à l'Assemblée Provinciale qu'il s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de renvoyer les états de candidature que la Direction de la Justice avait présenté la première fois pour la Cour Supérieure "Section Civile et Criminelle;" pour cause que la plupart des candidats inscrits dans les états ne possédaient pas les qualités exigées.

Dans les limites des droits que le Statut Organique lui donne dans ce cas, le Comité Permanent a tâché, tant pour la Cour Supérieure que pour les Tribunaux des départements, de faire tout son possible à ce que leur personne puisse répondre à leur haute nomination. Le Comité Permanent ne peut pas passer sous silence l'état de trois candidats qui lui a été présenté tout dernièrement pour le remplacement de Saïd Effendi, membre du Tribunal Criminel d'Eski-Zaghra.

Puisque l'exclusion de Saïd Effendi a été demandée par la Direction de la Justice, se basant sur des causes contraires à la loi et aux règlements, le Comité Permanent n'a pas jugé nécessaire, dans l'intérêt des emplois de la justice, de refuser d'examiner l'état qui lui a été présenté.

Parmi les autres affaires qui ont été présentées au Comité Permanent par la loi, ce dernier a eu à examiner au commencement de son activité un projet d'ordres du jour pour la démobilisation des troupes.

Ayant pris en considération les moyens de la province, et la non-existence de la nécessité de tenir sous les armes 8,000 personnes, il donna son avis sur cet ordre du jour qui arrêtait seulement trois bataillons, savoir : celui de Haskeui, de Bourgas, et le premier bataillon de Philippopoli ; ayant chacun trois compagnies et tous les autres une seule.

En même temps, il a donné son opinion à ce que le bataillon de Slivno reste aussi en trois compagnies. Mais cet avis n'a pas été accepté par le Gouvernement.

Conformément à l'Article 174 du Statut Organique, le Comité Permanent a approuvé pendant le cours de son activité l'exclusion de deux officiers de la gendarmerie.

Ces deux officiers sont : Mirkovitz, Commandant de Section à Karnabat, et Pavlovitz, Commandant de Section à Achiélo-Mesenvria.

Les faits qui ont été présentés au Comité au sujet de la mauvaise conduite de ces deux officiers, donnaient l'impossibilité de les tenir au service, et il crut de son devoir, "au profit de la discipline de la gendarmerie," de donner son consentement pour leur expulsion.

L'élection faite conformément à l'Article 66 du Statut Organique pour un Conseiller et pour un Auditeur de la Cour Supérieure pour les affaires contentieuses, est connue à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Telles sont les principales affaires qui lui ont été communiquées par la loi, et qu'il avait à examiner dans le courant de cette année-ci.

Parmi ces occupations il tâcha, en qualité de Conseil Administratif du Gouverneur-Général, de lui prêter son assistance dans toutes les affaires sur lesquelles il demandait son avis.

Le Comité Permanent ne peut pas se taire sur l'importance de quelques-unes de ces affaires.

La chèreté des vivres pendant le printemps dernier par suite de la sécheresse qui régnait a menacée le Gouvernement ainsi que le Comité Permanent. Pour cette cause le Comité Permanent s'empressa de donner son avis au Gouvernement à ce que les vivres qui entrent dans la province soient exempts des droits de douane pour un temps déterminé.

Le 6 du mois de Mai le Gouverneur-Général a communiqué au Comité Permanent un projet de contrats au sujet de l'organisation d'une Banque Provinciale, foncier et agricole. Le Comité Permanent, prenant avant tout pour principe que sans l'existence d'une loi ni lui, ni le Gouvernement, sont compétents d'approuver et légaliser un contrat de ce genre, n'a pas refusé d'examiner les conditions qu'il contenait.

Une pareille étude lui parut de nature à profiter à l'Assemblée Provinciale dans le cas qu'il lui serait présenté d'examiner un tel projet. Ne pouvant vous exposer ici tous les détails à ce sujet, le Comité Permanent est obligé de dire contre ses sympathies pour une telle institution que les conditions ont parues nuisibles aux intérêts de la province et inacceptables par conséquence

De ce genre est aussi la proposition sur laquelle le Gouverneur-Général a demandé le 19 du mois d'Août l'avis du Comité Permanent concernant la jonction de la ligne ferrée Tirnova-Yamboly, avec celle des Balkans.

Elle était suivie d'un projet de contrat présenté par les Délégués de la Compagnie (Statsban), qui demandaient la concession de cette entreprise.

Rassuré du principe qu'il a posé dans le premier acte, le Comité Permanent a répondu au Gouverneur-Général que l'Assemblée Provinciale est seule compétente de se prononcer sur une question d'une si haute importance.

Pendant l'époque des nouveaux enrôlements, une grave question se présenta sous l'examen du Comité Permanent concernant la manière dont on pouvait tenir dans les cadres les sous-officiers dont le délai de leur service était expiré.

Dans une communication du 23 Mai, le Gouverneur-Général prévenait le Comité Permanent que la plupart de ces sous-officiers avaient exprimés le désir de quitter leur service, et demandait son avis à ce que leurs traitements fussent augmentés.

Prenant en considération le danger qui menaçait la milice de rester sans maître, le Comité Permanent crut de son devoir de donner son avis pour l'augmentation du crédit prévu pour les traitements de ces sous-officiers, et en cas qu'il serait insuffisant, de prélever une somme du Chapitre . . . . . du Budget, pour les dits traitements, dans les limites de l'Article 24, Annexe No. 12, du Statut Organique.

Immédiatement après cela et par les mêmes motifs, le Comité Permanent trouva nécessaire d'approuver les contrats du peu de sous-officiers étrangers qui étaient au service de notre milice, et a consenti à l'entrée en service encore de trente-neuf sous-officiers étrangers.

Attendu que la dîme provenant des productions hivernales n'a pas pu être vendue, le Comité Permanent s'était occupé au commencement du mois de Septembre de la question concernant la manière par laquelle pouvait être vendue la dîme aux conditions les plus favorables, tant pour la population que pour la Caisse provinciale.

Le 3 Septembre encore le Comité Permanent communiqua son avis au Gouverneur-Général disant que, pour la vente de la dîme, le Gouvernement devait tout simplement se conformer à l'Article 16, Annexe No. 9, du Statut Organique, invitant les producteurs d'acheter leur dîme d'après les prix courants de la place ; et la dîme que les producteurs auraient refusés d'acheter, d'être mise à l'adjudication publique. Cet avis fut accueilli par le Gouvernement, et nous sommes heureux de dire qu'il a donné les meilleures conséquences.

Le 23 Septembre, le Gouverneur-Général demanda l'avis du Comité Permanent au sujet d'un emprunt provisoire de £ T. 30,000.

Cet emprunt, ainsi qu'il a été porté à la connaissance de l'Assemblée Provinciale, fut demandé en vertu d'une loi financière de l'exercice courant, qui autorisait le Gouvernement de faire un emprunt de £ T. 80,000, pour faciliter les difficultés financières.

Un emprunt de £ T. 40,000 a été déjà fait avant trois mois, sans toutefois que le Comité Permanent soit avisé. Puisque le second emprunt ne pouvait être fait qu'après avoir déposé des revenues provinciales, le Comité Permanent ne se trouvait pas en état de l'approuver ; à plus forte raison que les renseignements dont il disposait

lui permettaient de croire que les difficultés seraient bientôt aplanies sans avoir recours à un emprunt.

Heureusement les événements vinrent justifier son avis.

Le Comité Permanent eut à s'occuper d'une question soulevée par la Sublime Porte, et qui lui a été communiquée le 20 Juillet. Dans une communication la Porte prétendait qu'il lui fut conféré le droit de placer dans la province des agents (Mufétiches) sur les Douanes, en appuyant cette prétention sur une interprétation donnée par la Commission Européenne à la fin de son activité, dans les Articles 19, 195, et 196 du Statut Organique, et en prenant pour prétexte l'introduction d'armes dans notre province.

Le Comité Permanent a cru de son devoir d'exposer clairement dans une réponse au Directeur de l'Intérieur, que les prétentions de la Porte étaient dénouées de fondements; et de déclarer que la province n'aurait jamais permis à la Porte de se mêler dans son administration intérieure.

Le Comité Permanent aime à croire que la Sublime Porte n'insistera plus sur une mauvaise interprétation de la loi.

Une des plus récentes questions sur lesquelles a été demandé l'avis du Comité Permanent, était aussi la question comment subvenir aux pauvres réfugiés du département d' Eski-Zaghra, ainsi qu'aux pauvres agriculteurs qui ont dû souffrir de la grêle et d'autres malheurs de cette année-ci. Quant aux premiers, le Comité Permanent a répondu que la meilleure source dont on pourrait puiser des subdivisions serait le crédit de £ T. 40,000 prévu dans le Budget de l'année passée pour les secours aux pauvres. Quant aux pauvres agriculteurs, pour lesquels on demandait des semences, le Comité prononça qu'il était prêt d'examiner un Règlement pour l'ouverture d'un nouveau crédit, dès que le Gouvernement aurait pu montrer les moyens propres à ouvrir un pareil crédit économique.

Par une communication du mois d'Octobre, le Gouverneur-Général prévenait le Comité Permanent que du dit crédit de £ T. 40,000 il restait encore £ T. 2,000, lesquelles, d'après ses renseignements, devaient être affectées à l'amélioration des réfugiés dans le département d'Eski-Zaghra et pour les secours aux malheureux agriculteurs.

L'importance de quelques-unes des interpellations que le Comité Permanent a cru de son devoir de donner au Gouvernement sur les différents sujets pendant l'année impose l'obligation d'occuper ce dernier.

Ainsi, le 30 Avril il voulut savoir quelles mesures avaient été prises par le Gouvernement pour la mise en exécution de l'Ordonnance concernant la réserve. Après une courte échange de lettres, le Comité eut le plaisir de voir que les mesures nécessaires ont été prises pour l'exécution de la dite Ordonnance, et pour l'exercice des réservistes conformément au Statut.

D'après quelques renseignements qui ont donné lieu au Comité Permanent de penser que l'Article 30 du Statut Organique ne s'accomplissait pas avec toute la précision exigée, il jugea nécessaire dès le commencement de son activité d'attirer l'attention du Gouvernement sur cet arrêté si important de la Loi Organique de la province.

Le manque de plaintes depuis lors donne lieu au Comité de croire que les ordres donnés à ce sujet par le Gouvernement produisirent leur effet. A différentes époques de l'année le Comité Permanent fut obligé, par suite de plaintes fondées et de bruits certains, de demander des renseignements des Administrateurs-Généraux concernant les actions de quelques-uns de leurs employés subordonnés. Si une partie des renseignements fournis furent de nature à calmer le Comité, il y a eu pourtant d'autres qui l'obligèrent de donner avec regret son avis, et de dire que l'affaire devait être soumise à un jugement.

Par suite d'une Ordonnance émanée sans avis préalable de l'Assemblée Provinciale, concernant la défense d'exportation de bétail, le Comité crut nécessaire d'exprimer ses craintes au Gouvernement au sujet des pertes qui pourraient résulter par suite de cette défense.

Le Gouvernement s'est convaincu dans les bases de ses craintes, et a supprimé la mesure de l'exportation menu-bétail.

Le Comité Permanent a appris avec regret, par des sources particulières, une question dans laquelle était engagés les intérêts de deux villages du département de Tatar-Bazardjik, et par suite de laquelle il a été soulevé des différends entre la Direction de l'Intérieur et la Direction de la Justice.

Dans ce cas le Comité a cru de son devoir de demander la correspondance

échangée entre les deux Directions à ce sujet. Il a lu avec un profond regret les détails de cette correspondance, qui démontrait chez le Directeur de la Justice la tendance de profiter de sa position pour consolider ses propres intérêts.

Ainsi le Préfet de Tatar-Bazardjik, demontrant la nécessité de dessécher un marais sis près de Batak et de donner cours à ses eaux dans le terrain des deux villages voisins, Darkowa et Rakitowa, M. le Directeur s'oppose à cela, et demande à ce que ces deux villages donnent £ T. 2,000 avant le dessèchement du marais, se basant sur ce qu'il pourrait par cela être aussi desséché une rivière près de Tekira, sur laquelle il possédait un moulin.

Ce qui surtout donna lieu de regrets au Comité, c'est la déclaration de M. le Directeur dans une de ces lettres adressée à M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur, par laquelle il insiste à ce cautionnement et comme Directeur et comme un intéressé.

A peine le . . . . . le même Directeur annonce au Directeur de l'Intérieur qu'après avoir pris l'avis du Procureur-Général, consente avec les conclusions de ce dernier à s'adresser au Tribunal pour défendre ses intérêts.

Certaines rumeurs défavorables qui parvinrent au Comité Permanent obligèrent ce dernier à demander le 22 Mai de la Direction de la Milice des renseignements sur la Commission qui fut envoyée en Russie pour achat de chevaux pour la gendarmerie.

Il est forcé de dire que ces renseignements, ainsi que ceux parvenus par les différents points de la province, sur l'état des chevaux achetés, furent des plus tristes.

Regrettant cette malheureuse affaire, qui ne coûta pas peu à la province, le Comité Permanent exprime le désir de mettre une fin à l'avenir à des pertes de ce genre pour la Caisse Provinciale.

Le Comité Permanent eut encore pendant l'année à attirer l'attention des différents Administrateurs-Généraux sur diverses affaires de leur compétence.

Ces remarques produisirent souvent de bonnes conséquences.

Pendant ses actions le Comité Permanent reçut 225 pétitions aux différents contenus. Le Comité crut de son devoir de consacrer toute son attention pour les étudier, et les communiqua aux différentes Directions, à ce qu'elles se conformassent aux résolutions qu'elles portaient.

Le manque de plaintes donne lieu de croire au Comité Permanent que ces résolutions reçurent de qui de droit leurs conséquences. Pourtant le Comité Permanent fut obligé de rejeter une pétition, vu qu'elle ne remplissait pas une des conditions les plus importantes exigée par le Statut Organique.

Couverte de signatures d'une grande partie des officiers Bulgares de la milice, cette pétition parlait au nom de tous les officiers Bulgares; au contraire, d'après l'Article 43 du Statut Organique, seulement les autorités constituées ont le droit de donner des pétitions en nom collectif.

Cependant, le Comité Permanent ne manqua pas de profiter du contenu de cette pétition en examinant les questions militaires qui l'occupèrent souvent, comme il a eu l'honneur de vous le communiquer au commencement de son Rapport.

Ce sont, MM. les honorables Députés, les faits en abrégé dont le Comité Permanent eut à s'occuper pendant son activité.

Il aime à croire que quoique son activité ne répond pas peut-être complètement aux désirs de l'Assemblée, elle ne refusera pas pourtant sa bienveillance dans son estimation.

Il tâcha toujours de justifier la confiance qui lui fut donnée, et pour laquelle il croit de son devoir de vous remercier encore une fois au moment de l'expiration du délai de son autorisation.

Il désire que ceux que votre confiance appellera à former le nouveau Comité, se distinguassent d'une plus grande et plus louable activité.

Inclosure 2 in No. 305.

List of Newly-Elected Members of the Permanent Committee.

M. Beneff.	Dr. Hacanoff.
M. J. E. Gueshoff.	M. Kaltchoff.
M. J. S. Gueshoff.	M. Salabachoff.
Dr. Dagoroff.	M. Vasoff.
M. Entchoff.	Dr. Yancoloff.

Supplementary Members.

M. Karapiroff.
M. Peeff.
M. Stamboloff.

No. 306.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 588.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 20, 1880.*

I AM informed, on the highest authority, that very considerable military preparations continue to be made. I am not simply speaking of the result of the information sent to this Embassy from various Consulates, nor of the separate items of intelligence collected as to particular preparations. Generally it must be taken as certain that the Turkish authorities are straining every effort to be prepared for all contingencies, and notwithstanding their desperate financial straits, are devoting all the funds they can manage to obtain from the provinces to warlike objects.

I hear especially that the troops in Epirus have been brought into a very fine condition, and that they are at present much better clothed and fed than is usual with the Turks.

I learn also, but not on equally good authority, that preparations are actively pressed for preparing ships for sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 307.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 589.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 21, 1880.*

WISHING to have a connected statement of the present state of the negotiations as to the railway projects between Austria, Servia, Bulgaria, and Turkey, which have caused so much discussion, and understanding that Mr. Vincent, during his recent journey through Bulgaria, had had the opportunity of hearing some particulars as to the feelings with which the rival schemes were regarded by the Bulgarians, I requested Mr. Vincent to draw up a memorandum on the subject, embodying both the information sent to this Embassy from various quarters, and such geographical considerations as might occur to him.

I only gave the papers and my instruction to Mr. Vincent a day or two before his departure, so that he had not much time for the task, but I forward the memorandum to your Lordship, as it may be of some convenience.

I should be glad if your Lordship would cause a printed copy to be sent to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 307.

Lieutenant Vincent to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Constantinople, November 10, 1880.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's request, I have the honour to submit the following observations on the subject of the Bulgarian and Servian railways.

I propose first to enumerate the principal railway schemes which have been proposed for Bulgaria; secondly, those which have been proposed for Servia, proceeding subsequently to the discussion of the international question.

Bulgaria.—Of the numerous plans which have been brought forward for Bulgaria, it will only be necessary to take four into consideration, as they alone, as far as can be at present foreseen, have any chance of being adopted.

The four lines proposed are:—

1. From Sarambey (Bellova) in Eastern Roumelia, through Sophia, to Pirot, on the Servian frontier. (Coloured red on inclosed map.)
2. From Sophia, by the Zerowa Pass, to Rahowa, on the Danube. (Brown in map.)
3. From Sophia, by the Orchanie Pass, to Plevna, Sistova, and eventually to Rustchuk. (Green in map.)
4. From Sistova, on the Danube, up the valley of the Jantra, to Tirnova and Gabrova, across the Balkans by the Hainkeui Pass to Yeni-Zaghra, where the line would join the existing Constantinople-Philippopolis *réseau*. (Blue in map.)

1. The first of these lines—from Sarambey to Pirot—is now being pressed on Bulgaria by the Austrian Government. Their argument is that by the Xth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Bulgaria is obliged to take up the responsibilities of Turkey, in respect to railways, both towards other countries and towards the Companies concerned in the construction and working of existing lines. The Austrian Government does not confine itself to pressing the immediate completion of the *raccordement* on Bulgaria, but denies the right of the Principality to grant a concession for any other line, until the construction of this one shall have been assured. (*Vide* Mr. Lascelles' No. 19, Commercial, September 21, 1880.)

The Bulgarian Government replies that it has other lines of railway under consideration, which would connect the Eastern Roumelian *réseau* with Europe, and that Austria has no right to compel Bulgaria to make any particular line, provided that she fulfils her obligations under the Treaty of Berlin by connecting the Turkish with the European railway system.

An examination of the terms of Article X of the Treaty of Berlin hardly bears out the above interpretation of the obligations it imposes. The Bulgarian Government further contends that it is at present unacquainted with the responsibilities assumed by the Turkish Government towards Austria and towards the "Compagnie Hirsch." It is true that Austria has communicated a résumé of the notes exchanged with the Sublime Porte in 1875 on this subject, but it is impossible, the Bulgarian Government maintains, for a State to accept responsibilities with the nature and extent of which it is not more accurately acquainted than is possible when its only information is derived from an *ex parte* résumé. Moreover, of the obligations towards the "Compagnie Hirsch" it is totally ignorant, as the necessary documents have not yet been procurable.

M. Balabanow, the Bulgarian Minister at Constantinople, states that he has pressed the Porte continually for their production, but has hitherto received nothing but promises.

The Bulgarian Government add that until the construction of the Servian lines has actually been commenced, it is unreasonable to expect it to undertake a *raccordement* which will be useless until the completion of the 250 kilom. between Belgrade and Pirot. As for the right of Austria to impose a "séquestre préventif des ressources du pays" by forbidding the construction of any other railway until the Pirot-Sarambey connection is assured, it most vehemently protests against it.

These, then, are the principal objections on the part of the Bulgarian Government, and it is impossible to deny that they have considerable force. At the same time there can be no doubt that, with a little good-will on both sides, the points in dispute could be easily arranged. The real obstacle is the intense hatred of Austria, which is almost universal in Bulgaria. She is so much distrusted that any scheme which, in its most remote results, may tend to increase her influence in the Balkan Peninsula, has but little chance of acceptance at Sophia. Whatever the views and sympathies of this or that Minister may be, the body of the people is violently opposed to all Austrian projects, and it is with them that the decision practically rests.

2. The second line—from Sophia to Rahova—is proposed by a Company which enjoys the support of the Banque Nationale of Paris. The names put forward by this Company are those of M. Emile de Girardin and M. Jentry, Deputy of La Vendée, a financier who was concerned in the Poti-Tiflis line, as well as in the Charentes and La Vendée railways in France.

The proposed line would, I am informed, run northwards from Sophia along the valley of the Ishra. The country about fifteen miles from Sophia commences to be mountainous, and the expense of traversing the Shara Planina, which is here of considerable breadth, would be immense. To the north of Wratza the construction would be comparatively easy, as the country is flat, but it is poor and with less capacity for development than almost any other district of Bulgaria. The Danube would be crossed by a bridge from Rahova to Pilmetu, and the line carried up the Valley of the Ikin to Krajowa, where it would join the Roumanian *réseau*.

3. The third line would run north-east from Sophia, by Pashkessen, Kamarly,

Orchanie, and Plevna to Sistova, and eventually along the Danube to Rustchuk. The concession for it is applied for by Messrs. Poliakoff, the Russian contractors. It would probably be the scheme most conducive to Russian interests. In Bulgaria, however, it appears not to be regarded with favour, except by those who have a local interest in the towns it is proposed to pass through.

4. The fourth line probably offers the greatest advantages for the general public, and would certainly establish the quickest through communication between Constantinople and Europe. It would be connected with the Roumanian *réseau* at Krajowa, running thence to Simnitza and traversing the Danube by a bridge to Sistova. From Sistova, the line would run for a short distance eastwards as far as the valley of the Jantra. Once there, the construction would be easy, as the valley is broad, and from its configuration, offers great facilities for a railway. It is, moreover, one of the richest and most fertile districts in Bulgaria. The line would pass Biela and Tirnova, after which the country becomes more difficult, and, still following the valley of the Jantra, would be continued to Gabrova. To the south of Gabrova, the higher Balkans commence, but M. de Serre, the engineer of the "Staats-Bahn," a man of great ability, who has surveyed the country, states that the difficulty of carrying a railway across the range has been very much exaggerated. The Pass he would choose is the Hainkeui, a few miles to the east of Schipka, and he asserts that, with a tunnel of very moderate length, he can traverse the mountains without rising to more than 850 metres above the sea-level. From Hainkeui, the line would run to Yeni-Zaghra, a station on the Yamboli branch of the existing Roumelian railway system. This scheme is put forward by the "Staats-Bahn," a Company composed in the main of French capitalists, but which the Bulgarians assert is under Austrian influence and works in the Austrian interest.

Your Excellency will observe that, in the article from the "Courrier d'Orient," which I inclose, the "Staats-Bahn" line is spoken of as "une ligne politique et stratégique Austro-Hongroise." The main practical objection, however, is that it does not pass through Sophia. The Prince is said to be determined to permit no concession to be granted for a line which does not do this. His fear is that, if Tirnova were connected by a railway with Europe, while Sophia was left isolated, the advantages of the former as a capital would be recognized, and the seat of Government changed. It is needless to point out how disadvantageous this would be with regard to Bulgarian influence in Macedonia; the present idea being that, although Sophia is now at one extremity of the Principality, it will become central by the accession of territory towards the west. (See Inclosure No. 2.)

The "Courrier d'Orient"'s assertion that it is vigourously supported by the Austrian Consul-General can hardly be reconciled with the fact that the Austrian Government objects to any concession being granted before the Pirot-Sarambey *raccordement* is arranged.

With these four, and some other less promising, schemes before them, the Bulgarian Ministers find it hard to decide. They are by no means inclined to rush blindly into any railway project. The revenue of the Principality is barely sufficient for the administration and the militia, and they have, in addition, very heavy obligations on account of the Varna Railway and the Turkish Debt, for which no provision has yet been made. Under these circumstances they hesitate before increasing their liabilities by guaranteeing interest for railways, which, for several years after their construction, can hardly be expected to do more than pay working expenses. They will probably endeavour to make some arrangement, by which in exchange for a favourable concession, a portion, if not the whole, of the Varna obligation may be taken off their hands.

Servia.—In April of this year, a Convention was signed between Austria and Servia, binding the latter to construct, within three years, a line of railway from Belgrade to Alexiintz, Nisch, and Wranja; with a branch from Nisch to Pirot, on the Bulgarian frontier, if Bulgaria undertook the *raccordement* from Pirot to Sarambey (Bellova). The construction of the Belgrade-Nisch-Wranja line is to be commenced within six months from June 1880, and to be finished within three years; while work on the Nisch-Pirot branch is to be begun within six months of the date on which Bulgaria agrees to complete her portion. Austria is bound by the same Convention to effect within three years the connection between Belgrade and her existing *réseau*. The two Signatory States further undertake to use joint pressure upon Turkey to complete the *raccordement* from some point on the existing Salonica-Mitrovitza line to Wranja. The precise position of this point has not yet been determined, but it will probably be selected in the neighbourhood of Kachanik, 20 miles north of Uskub, as the country between this town and Wranja affords greater facilities for railway construction than that between Wranja and Kuprulu, while the intervening distance is considerably less.

The construction of the Servian lines, agreed upon by the Convention, has, M. Gronich states, not yet commenced. Servia complains that Austria, having obtained what she desires by the Convention, will not press Turkey to complete her portion. On the other side, Bulgaria will not even enter into a serious examination of the question, while Turkey refuses to consider any railway project in the present condition of affairs. Austria alone is anxious to press the matter forward. Her desire for the *raccordement* with Salonica, by Belgrade, Nisch, and Wranja, has become much more keen since she has realized the extreme difficulty of carrying the Bosnian line on, as originally intended, to Novi-Bazaar and Mitrovitza.

At the time of the occupation a 2 ft. 9 in. (approx.) line was constructed from Brod, on the Save, to Senitza, about half-way to Serajevo. The continuation to Serajevo up the valley of the Bosna is a matter of necessity, owing to the badness of the existing roads, and its completion can only be delayed a few months.

Beyond Serajevo, however, difficulties commence.

Before the valley of the Lim can be reached the line has to traverse the Romanja Planina and the Kowan Planina. The railway would then follow the valley of the river to Prjepolje. From Prjepolje to Novi-Bazaar and Mitrovitza, it would either have to follow the same general direction as the present mainroad by Sienitza and Pawli, or make a detour to the south-west by Ahowa and Roshaj. In either case the expense of construction would be high, while the danger of interruption of traffic by snow during the winter would be so great that it is doubtful whether the Austrian Government will venture upon so costly and uncertain an enterprize. Against the great expense of construction, however, must be set the economy of transport for the troops in Bosnia, and the saving to be effected by reducing the garrisons. This might be done to a considerable extent, the best authorities stating that at least half the troops could be spared if there was a railway. Should this line be constructed, it would diminish the importance of the Nisch-Wranja-Kachanik *raccordement*, which would become merely a subsidiary connection from the Austrian point of view. It must not, however, be forgotten that the Bosnian line will only be of 2 ft. 9 in. guage, and that the northern portion, at any rate, has been hurriedly laid. The carrying capacity of such a line is necessarily very limited, while a high rate of speed is impossible.

The present state of the negotiations regarding the Balkan Peninsula Railway is as follows:

Austria, some months ago, invited the three other interested States—Turkey, Servia, and Bulgaria—to send Delegates to an International Railway Congress to be held at Vienna. Bulgaria named M. Balabanow, but he has not yet started for Vienna, and now represents the Principality at Constantinople. Servia named a Delegate, who proceeded to Vienna and commenced a study of the question. After two months he became mad. Turkey has, as yet, named no one. There appears, therefore, to be but little hope of a speedy solution of the question unless it is resolutely taken up by Austria.

As regards English commercial interests, it cannot be said that they are very directly concerned. The connection of Belgrade and Sophia with Salonica might stimulate our trade with the latter, which has fallen-off very materially since the war, and open out Bulgaria and Servia to English manufacturers. It is, however, probable that, even were Bulgaria and Servia, of their own will, not to put on a high protective Tariff, Austrian influence would, at any rate with the latter, be sufficient to bring about the exclusion of English goods by means of import duties. Of the other lines, the most advantageous, commercially, would be the one proposed by the "Staats-Bahn," namely, from Sistova to Zeni-Zaghra.

Strategically, the construction of three out of the four proposed railways in Bulgaria would increase the power of Austria in the Balkan Peninsula, as opposed to that of Russia. This is more particularly the case with regard to the Pirot-Sophia-Sarambey *raccordement*, which, when the Servian line is completed, will enable Austria to concentrate troops south of the Balkans with great rapidity. The "Staats-Bahn" scheme, though less directly, would also increase the power of Austria, as Russia could not venture to expose her flank by advancing so far to the east in Roumania unless sure of the co-operation of Austria, while, if the two Great Powers were hostile to one another, the line would almost certainly fall into Austrian possession. The only project which could, in any sense, be called favourable to Russia, is that of M. Poliakoff (Sophia-Plevna-Sistova-Rustchuk). If two lines were to start from Rustchuk, namely, the one to Varna and the proposed one to Sophia, it is probable that a bridge across the Danube would be constructed, uniting them to Giurgevo and Bucharest. This might, in the event of war, be of enormous advantage to Russia.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Politically, the influence of Austria will be greatly strengthened in the Balkan Peninsula when communication with it has been rendered easier by the construction of railways, and the Turkish *réseau* has been connected with that of south-eastern Europe.

(Signed) EDGAR VINCENT, *Coldstream Guards.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 307.

Extract from the "Courrier d'Orient" of November 5, 1880.

LES CHEMINS DE FER BULGARES.—Le Prince Alexandre de Bulgarie s'étant attardé à Roustchouk, où il vient de rencontrer le Prince Charles de Roumanie, la Session s'est ouverte à Sophia sans grande cérémonie. M. Zancoff a donné lecture du message ordinaire. Le Souverain engage la Chambre à s'occuper de la question des chemins de fer. C'est, en effet, la vraie question du moment. Reste à savoir si le Gouvernement et la Chambre comprendront assez l'intérêt du pays pour arriver à une solution rapide. Plusieurs projets sont en présence. L'un d'eux, celui du raccordement avec la Serbie, a été complètement abandonné pour deux raisons. La première est que le Gouvernement Bulgare n'a aucun intérêt à suivre, en ce qui concerne cette ligne, les prescriptions du Traité de Berlin; la seconde est que la "Staats-Bahn" se voit contrainte elle-même d'abandonner un tracé, qu'elle considérait comme sien, depuis que le Gouvernement Hongrois s'est chargé lui-même de l'établissement de la ligne de Pesth à Semlin.

La Bulgarie en se raccordant avec la Serbie par un chemin de fer complètement excentrique, grèverait sans profit son budget d'une assez forte annuité. Elle se verrait contrainte d'abandonner pour longtemps tout projet de ligne nationale la reliant au Danube et lui permettant d'écouler ses produits agricoles sans subir les droits de Douanes Serbes. Elle refuse donc d'obtempérer aux injonctions du Cabinet de Vienne. La résolution prise par le Gouvernement Hongrois de construire lui-même la ligne de Pesth à Semlin est venue fortifier cette résistance. La Staats-Bahn, qui veut, en effet, se relier coûte que coûte aux chemins Ottomans, affiche aujourd'hui les mêmes opinions que le Gouvernement Bulgare. Cette puissante Compagnie qui, connaissant l'antipathie des Bulgares vis-à-vis de l'Autriche-Hongrie, se dissimule derrière une Compagnie dont les chefs s'efforcent de donner à l'entreprise une couleur Française, avoue que l'Europe en spécifiant le raccordement entre les chemins Ottomans et les lignes Autrichiennes, dans le Traité de Berlin, n'a eu pour véritable but que de créer une grande ligne internationale, sans se préoccuper outre mesure du tracé à intervenir.

Cette Convention forcée de la Staats-Bahn l'a amenée à chercher un débouché sur les chemins Ottomans à travers la Roumanie et la Bulgarie. M. de Serre, représentant de la Compagnie annexe créée pour la forme, demande donc au Gouvernement Roumain la concession des lignes de Hermanstadt à Craïova, et de cette ville à Zimnitza, où le Danube serait franchi. La ligne Autrichienne se prolongerait sur le territoire Bulgare par le tronçon de Sistova à Aïn Boghaz, dont M. de Serre sollicite la concession du Prince Alexandre; et de ce point, à travers les Balkans, à une station quelconque des chemins de fer Ottomans non loin de Tirnova de Roumélie. Cette ligne, il suffit d'en indiquer le tracé, ne serait d'aucun secours à la Bulgarie. Elle traverserait la Principauté dans sa partie la plus étroite, et laisserait tous ses districts à l'ouest sans moyens de communication avec le Danube. La capitale excentrique aujourd'hui, mais qui deviendra centrale avec le temps, continuerait à rester isolée du monde. C'est un peu sur cela que compte le Gouvernement Autrichien. M. de Haymerle espère que si le Prince Alexandre concède à la Staats-Bahn la ligne Sistova-Aïn-Boghaz, il viendra un moment où la capitale Bulgare, cherchant elle-même son raccordement dans son intérêt propre, et sous la pression de l'Autriche, se raccordera à son tour. De cette manière, l'Autriche-Hongrie aurait un jour deux lignes au lieu d'une pour déboucher sur le Balkan et devancer la Russie, toujours lente à se mobiliser, dans l'hypothèse d'une guerre que l'Europe redoute et que la diplomatie prévoit.

La ligne proposée par M. de Serre, vigoureusement appuyé par le Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie, est donc dans la partie de son tracé de Sistova à Aïn-Boghaz, une ligne politique et stratégique Austro-Hongroise en même temps qu'une ligne nécessaire à la Staats-Bahn, mais elle ne saurait passer pour une ligne d'intérêt Bulgare. Si le Gouvernement Bulgare s'abandonnait à ce courant, ce serait alors le devoir de la Chambre de remettre les choses en leur vraie place. Mais, il ne semble pas probable quant à présent, que le Ministre adopte les plans de M. de Serre.

A côté de la Staats-Bahn une autre Compagnie se présente, celle-ci réellement Française, dont les plans depuis longtemps conçus et étudiés ont été déjà soumis, il y a quelques mois, au Prince Alexandre et au Ministère Zancoff. Il s'agit de la Banque Nationale de Paris, dont le Président du Conseil d'Administration est M. Emile de Girardin, l'éminent publiciste, qui a tant fait pour la cause Bulgare; et le Directeur, M. Jenty, Député de La Vendée, le financier qui a construit les chemins de fer de Poti à Tiflis, des Charentes, et de La Vendée. Les représentants de cette Compagnie sont arrivés à Sophia depuis quelques jours. Ces messieurs sont les promoteurs de la ligne de Sophia à Rahova, qui de la station de Yéni-han se raccorde, par un embranchement très-court, aux chemins de Roumélie. Quant au raccordement international, il s'opérerait de Becket à Craïova, en Roumanie. Le tracé de ce chemin de fer est on ne peut plus rationnel puisqu'il traverse la région occidentale de la Principauté actuellement dépourvue de tous moyens de communication, relie la capitale à la Roumélie d'une part, au Danube de l'autre, et empêche l'influence Autrichienne de se faire jour en Bulgarie à l'aide du chemin de fer.

Si les choses se passaient en Bulgarie comme elles se passent ailleurs, le projet dont nous parlons aurait les plus grandes chances d'être immédiatement adopté, car il ne peut que sourire au Prince Alexandre, dont le désir est d'échapper aux envahissements étrangers et de créer la prospérité du pays en reliant la capitale au Danube par la route la plus courte, et en donnant à l'agriculture le moyen d'écouler ses produits vers les marchés du Bas-Danube et de l'Europe. L'opinion publique, avec un véritable instinct de la situation, se prononce pour le tracé de Sophia à Rahova.

Mais, les affaires les plus simples, nous l'avons souvent démontré, sont parfois les plus lentes à se conduire en Bulgarie. Une mauvaise fée défait la nuit ce qu'on a préparé le jour, et tout est à recommencer.

Il faut bien cependant que les Bulgares qui aiment leur pays se persuadent qu'une question comme celle des chemins de fer ne peut être ni enterrée, ni remise à une autre Session. C'est en agissant vite qu'ils peuvent échapper aux prescriptions du Traité de Berlin. S'ils exécutent le raccordement avec l'Europe au mieux de leurs intérêts, personne n'aura rien à dire. S'ils tardent et fatiguent les établissements de crédit qui offrent leurs concours, l'Autriche-Hongrie, appuyée par la diplomatie Européenne tout entière, exigera le raccordement par la Serbie, qui, nous le répétons, n'entraîne avec lui aucun avantage pour la Principauté.

La situation est donc celle-ci:

Ou tarder, perdre un temps précieux et aboutir à un échec diplomatique, et à la création d'une ligne inutile à la Bulgarie, et qui livre le pays à l'Autriche-Hongrie;

Ou traiter avec M. de Serre, dont le projet n'est nullement satisfaisant au point de vue des intérêts Bulgares, et qui porte l'influence Autrichienne au cœur même de la presqu'île des Balkans;

Ou faire appel à la Compagnie Française qui n'apporte à sa suite aucune ingérence nuisible, et dont le tracé absolument national et rationnel satisfait en même temps les intérêts Européens et les intérêts Bulgares.

No. 308.

E (No. 600.) *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.*—(*Received November* 30.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1880.

I HAVE in vain endeavoured, since I last had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the Dulcigno question, to obtain precise or detailed information from the Ministers as to either the proceedings of Dervish Pasha or the instructions which have been sent to him.

All my colleagues have had the same experience. We simply received the most general answers to our repeated and urgent inquiries.

On Saturday I went to the Prime Minister and cross-questioned him as to what was passing. He assured me, as I had been assured before, that the news received was satisfactory, and that severe and "categorical" instructions had been sent to Dervish Pasha the day before. I replied that this same word "categorical" had been used three or four weeks ago, but that nothing came of it. In what did the instructions just dispatched differ from those which had been previously sent? His Highness replied that the last orders had been more developed, "plus développés." I was so dissatisfied with this continued evasion, that I requested Count Hatzfeldt to call a meeting of the Ambassadors to-day, with a view of making a collective demand for detailed and precise

information in writing, basing our demands on the distinct assurances which had been made to us a month ago, that we should be kept informed of the "march of the cession."

In the meantime several of us saw the Foreign Minister to-day, previous to the meeting, and we received rather fuller information than on previous occasions, though it was still most meagre.

Assim Pasha assured me that the telegrams received had been very satisfactory; that Dervish Pasha would probably be at Dulcigno to-day with four battalions, and that four other battalions were marching by a parallel route. (I telegraphed the substance of this information to your Lordship to-day.)

His Excellency seemed to consider it as a sign of very great progress indeed that the Turkish General should be able to enter Dulcigno. I observed to Assim Pasha that when he announced the telegrams to be so highly satisfactory, I had imagined that they must have contained the news of the surrender of Dulcigno, not only of its entry by Dervish Pasha; but he explained to me that Dervish Pasha had been able to cross the bridge where Veli Riza Pasha had turned back before, and that he had encountered no resistance. The Albanians too, he assured me, were dispersing from the Mazura heights.

I questioned his Excellency whether the Turkish authorities were so far agreed with the Montenegrins that if in possession of Dulcigno they would be able to transfer the place at once, without further prolonged negotiations. I gathered from his very indistinct replies that he believed it was so, but on comparing notes subsequently with my colleagues, I find that he conveyed a precisely opposite impression to others.

When the Ambassadors met this afternoon, it appeared that on the whole the information given to-day had been favourable as regards the prospect of the cession, and it was stated that the wish of the Palace appeared to be that Dervish Pasha should use force, if necessary, but on his own authority, and without instructions. It appears that he had pressed inquiries as to the lengths to which he might go; that a Council had sat at the Palace till 3 o'clock in the morning discussing the answer which should be given, and that in the end he was informed that it was unnecessary for him to ask questions, but that it was expected of him that Dulcigno should be given up. These were apparently the instructions of which the Prime Minister said that they were more "developed." The reason why the nature of the instructions is never communicated to the Ambassadors, is probably the embarrassment felt as to the use of force, and the manœuvres resorted to to cover the responsibility of the Palace and the Porte in any eventuality which may occur.

My colleagues, after some discussion, agreed that a collective demand such as I had suggested ought to be made, not merely for the sake of obtaining information, as our demand would probably be evaded, but in order to bring home to the Porte that we were still taking a united and watchful interest in their proceedings, an object not so superfluous as might be imagined. However, it was agreed to suspend action till the following day. It is possible that by that time we may be relieved of the necessity of taking the step, but it is more probable that the necessity for making the joint inquiry will not have been removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 309.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 603. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 22, 1880.*

IN my despatch No. 600 of this day I informed your Lordship of a meeting of the Ambassadors at which we discussed the prospects of the surrender of Dulcigno, and the propriety of taking some joint step for obtaining further intelligence as to the proceedings of Dervish Pasha.

In the course of our conversation I sounded my colleagues as to their views on the expediency of suggesting to our Governments whether, in view of the increasing chance of the Turks being prepared very shortly to effect the cession, the Montenegrins should not be reminded of the necessity of their being ready on their part to advance when summoned, and to occupy the district at once.

Like others amongst my colleagues, I was under the impression that at Cettinjé

such a feeling of hopelessness prevailed as to the prospects of a solution that, if suddenly a solution should be possible, some delay might ensue. Some significant remarks were made in consequence. While generally it was felt that it might be most expedient to warn the Montenegrins to hold themselves in readiness, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires explained, in moderate and conciliatory language, yet with much animation, that there might be very grave objections to such a step. The Montenegrins might be merely invited into a trap. It was necessary to proceed with the greatest prudence. It might be right to let matters settle down a little. In short, it appeared as if Russia would certainly not advise the Montenegrins to take advantage at once of any opportunity which might be offered to occupy Dulcigno; but on the contrary, that they would advise them on no account to hurry themselves. M. Onou was very careful to explain that he only expressed his personal views, but they agreed in a very remarkable manner with many indications which will not have escaped your Lordship.

I could not but be reminded of the report furnished by Mr. Green that some of the Montenegrin troops were being disbanded, and that the Russian Representative at Cettinjé had recommended this course.

M. Onou remarked, in the course of the discussion, that if the Powers only wished to be able to wash their hands of the affair, it might be wise on their part to put the Montenegrins in the wrong by inviting them to march, when it was patent they could not do so without danger; but if they wished to confer a substantial and permanent benefit on Montenegro, they ought not to hurry them till it was certain that the coast was clear and affairs in a more settled condition.

I replied that there was doubtless much force in the remark, but it could not be overlooked that the Austrian Government, when the naval demonstration was being discussed, had stipulated that if the Montenegrins did not advance when it was expected they should do so, the *raison d'être* for the demonstration would cease; in other words, that the Powers would then hold themselves relieved of their responsibility. Baron Calice did not make any reply.

Personally, I am of opinion that, looking to the extreme desire of the Austrian and some other Governments to be quit of their difficulties, almost at any cost, it would be extremely dangerous for the Montenegrins to show any hesitation when the Turks offer surrender. Symptoms of a desire to cast the blame for possible failure in effecting a solution on the Montenegrins are certainly not wanting, and the Russian Government would do them ill service by a policy such as the observations of M. Onou seem to shadow forth.

I am anxious that M. Onou should not in any way be compromised by my report of his language. I was glad to hear him speak so openly, and should regret any remarks being made to him by his Government in consequence, especially as being only temporarily in charge of the Embassy he is in a somewhat delicate position.

I telegraphed to your Lordship this evening to the effect that in view of the chance of Dervish Pasha announcing in a few days that he is master of the position, it might be expedient to warn the Montenegrins to be prepared; that I had reason to believe that the Russians would not urge the Montenegrins to act promptly, and that in consequence it would be well to consult Russia at once, and agree on the advice to be given to Montenegro, and at the same time I requested that it should not be known that the anxiety as to the language to be held by Russia came from me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 310.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

E. C.
(No. 604.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 23, 1880.*

I OBSERVE in a despatch from Sir J. Walsham, No. 500, Confidential, of the 30th October, that Count Stirum gave as a reason for his not considering it advisable for the Ambassadors, when recommending the Porte to convoke an International Financial Commission, to refer in any way to the note from the Porte of the 3rd October, that "the note in its entirety had virtually been rejected by the Powers as inacceptable," and it might, therefore, create difficulties if one particular part of it were made the subject of discussion.

I am bound to state that the Turkish Ministers do not consider that the note has

been virtually rejected in its entirety, nor has any action been taken so far as I am aware to impress them with the fact.

Especially on the Greek question the Porte asserts that it has stated its ultimatum, and that the Powers have not demurred to it.

In a conversation I have lately had with the Minister of Finance, in which he complained of the immense strain put upon Turkish resources by the military preparations of the Greeks, his Excellency spoke of the action of the Greeks as if it simply implied a gratuitous attack on two Turkish provinces. I replied by an allusion to the will of Europe. On this the Minister of Finance remarked with an appearance of perfect candour that Turkey had stated what it was prepared to give, and that their offer had not been rejected by the Powers. He seemed surprised at learning from me that such an idea had not even been entertained.

I can assure your Lordship that the view is very generally prevalent that the note has not been answered because the Powers could not agree upon their answer, and that the propositions of the Porte were very far from having been rejected. Language is held as if the basis had been changed from that established by the Berlin Conference to that laid down by the Porte in its last note.

I have not failed to point out the error of this theory whenever I have had the opportunity of doing so, but the absence of a joint declaration as to the inacceptable character of the various decisions announced by the Porte has, in my judgment, done incalculable harm. The Ottoman Government averted the blow, which was expected to follow on the note, by surrendering on a part of one of the issues involved, and since then they have been left in peace as to the remainder.

They draw from this circumstance not unnatural inferences. How far whispered communications may have been made to them that concessions as to Dulcigno might really avert the consequences of the attitude they assumed in the note on all other questions, I am not in a position to decide; but an expression which a well-known member of one of the Embassies somewhat indiscreetly used to the effect that it would be an act of bad faith to urge other questions at once on the Porte if they surrendered Dulcigno, was calculated to arouse involuntary suspicion.

On my asking in a tone of great surprise whether it could be contended that such a promise had been made, and if so, what Powers could have made it, I was told that it seemed to be a general understanding, implied if not expressed.

I have in previous despatches expressed my conviction to your Lordship that it was absolutely necessary to inform the Porte collectively that on no single point could this answer of the 3rd October be considered acceptable. Subsequent events have heightened my conviction that, whatever action may be ultimately taken to obtain a satisfactory settlement, the Turks should be at least informed at once with regard to each of the questions in dispute that their views are absolutely rejected by the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 311.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 605.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 23, 1880.

I OBSERVE in a despatch of Sir John Walsham, dated the 5th November, relating the substance of a conversation which he had had with the French Ambassador, that Sir John Walsham expressed his conviction that had it not been for the effect which the Smyrna project had produced on the Sultan "neither the French nor the German Ambassador would have succeeded in extracting from His Majesty even the promise as regards Dulcigno, which still remains unfulfilled."

This remark of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin points to the rumour, which was, however, incorrect, that it was the German Ambassador who had succeeded in extracting the promise in question from the Sultan, supported by the French Ambassador. The origin of this account of the surrender is clearly connected with that which caused the telegram sent me by your Lordship on the 11th October, No. 667, respecting the orders given to Count Hatzfeldt and M. Tissot to urge the Porte to yield, and it would appear as if the fact that orders were given, had led to the conclusion that those orders were executed and proved successful. I am aware that a great portion of the

press has represented the final result of the promise as due to the efforts of Count Hatzfeldt, but I have clearly shown your Lordship in my despatch No. 517 of the 27th October what really occurred.

Count Hatzfeldt has always expressed himself with perfect accuracy as to what took place, and I do not know that it would have been worth while to trouble your Lordship with this despatch, if I had not inferred from Sir John Walsham himself being under the belief that Count Hatzfeldt and M. Tissot had obtained some promise by separate action, that others at Berlin must have shared this view and treated it as an actual fact. The promises obtained were the result of the arrival of the news of the Smyrna plan, and no other view has ever been put forward here. It has never been claimed that any separate action brought about the change of tone after the delivery of the note of the 3rd October.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 312.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 1089. Extender.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 27, 1880.

THIS morning, in execution of a telegraphic instruction which I received from your Lordship last evening, I informed M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that Her Majesty's Government were anxious to ascertain the views of the French Government as to the desirability of proceeding at once with the delineation of the Dulcigno frontier.

I told his Excellency that Captain Sale, the British Delegate on the Frontier Commission, was at Antivari, and that he was instructed to remain there if the other Commissioners did so, but otherwise to repair to some other convenient place and wait for orders.

I mentioned also to his Excellency that it appeared that the French Commissioner was absent.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire answered that he certainly considered it desirable that the delineation of the Dulcigno question should be proceeded with immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 313.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 1091. Extender.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 27, 1880.

THIS morning M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire spoke to me of the impending surrender of Dulcigno, and immediately went on to say that it was the wish of the French Government that the allied squadrons should separate immediately after the occupation of that place by the Montenegrins.

Adverting to the conversation which we had had on the subject on the 8th instant, his Excellency added that the French Government also considered that it would be proper, before the several squadrons actually separated, to fix a rendezvous to which they might, if necessary, repair for orders.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire appeared to me to lay more stress upon the advisability, in his opinion, of separating the squadron at once, than upon the necessity of fixing a rendezvous for them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 314.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30, 8 P.M.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 30, 1880, 6 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Baron Haymerle your Lordship's telegram No. 847 of yesterday respecting the proposed separation of the fleet, and supported it by every argument in my power; but he said that he could not recede from the decision already expressed. He has stated to the Delegation at Pesth that the demonstration, which public opinion in this country regarded as a sword suspended over the general tranquillity, would cease upon the cession of Dulcigno, and it would be impossible for him to agree to its prolongation now that this result has been obtained.

I observed that, as the Austrian ships were in their own waters, it would be easy, without ostentation, to arrange a future meeting; but he answered that, if any demonstration were proposed and thought desirable, the Imperial ships would be always within reach, but that nothing could be done before spring about the Greek frontier, which was the only question upon which he supposed that one could be contemplated. He had learned the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, both from Paris and St. Petersburgh, before it was received from your Lordship, and in rather different terms; but I do not believe that to have affected his decision, for he seems to consider that, according to the original understanding embodied in the instructions to the Admirals, the cession of Dulcigno *ipso facto* put an end to the demonstration.

No. 315.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 30, 1880.*

THE Austrian Minister at Cettinjé has been instructed to inform the Montenegrin Government that Baron Haymerle considers that the Boundary Commission should immediately proceed to fix the frontier marks between the sea and the lake if there is any good ground for believing that they can carry out the work without molestation.

No. 316.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cattaro, November 30, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED this morning to Prince your Lordship's message contained in No. 137 of yesterday, and His Highness again expressed his warmest gratitude to Her Majesty's Government.

I venture to thank your Lordship most respectfully for the flattering approval of my conduct. I am now on my way home viâ Corfu. Captain Sale has been informed by me that he may communicate direct with the Montenegrin Government on all boundary questions.

No. 317.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 30, 1880, 2 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1089 of the 27th instant, I have just received a note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that, according to information in the possession of the French Government, inundations, snow, and mud would render it impossible to proceed with the delineation of the Montenegrin frontier at this season; but that nevertheless, if the Commissioners of the other Powers consider it possible to proceed, the French Commissioner, who is now on leave at Paris, will be ordered to return immediately to his post.

No. 318.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 852.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 30, 1880, 4 P.M.*

NEW Montenegrin frontier. I have told Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that, in consequence of the expression which I have received of the views of Mr. Goschen and of the opinion of the Austrian Government, telegraphed in your No. 200, it would probably be best to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, after communication with Representatives at Scutari, to deliberate upon the best mode of settling the boundary.

No. 319.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 799. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 30, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

BARON HAYMERLE has informed Sir H. Elliot, in confidence, that a rough scheme had been submitted to him for dealing with the Turkish finance question, and that he was considering whether he could found thereon a proposal to be submitted to the Powers for a combination of the lately-created *consortium* of Galata bankers with Commissioners or Delegates appointed by the Powers.

Do you know anything of this scheme?

No. 320.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 141.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 30, 1880.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 167 of the 27th instant, conveying to Her Majesty's Government the thanks of Prince Nicholas for the part taken by them in obtaining from the Porte the surrender of Dulcigno, and I have to instruct you to thank His Highness, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, for this expression of his friendly sentiments, and to state that they are glad that the representations which the Powers have for so long pressed on the Turkish Government have at length brought about a settlement of the question satisfactory to the Prince of Montenegro and his people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 321.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 30, 1880.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a proposal has been made by his Lordship to those Governments who have taken part in the naval demonstration, that the Admirals should be instructed to take separate cruizes, but to call at such place as may be prearranged in case it may be necessary to send them further orders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.